Highlights from the International Advisory Board (IAB) Meeting
Texas A&M University April 23-24, 2015

Attending:
Klaus Aurisch
Hildegard Boucsein
Eric Chan
George Donnelly
Herb Goodman
Kim Hammer
Nora Janjan
Yoshi Kawashima
Azmi Al-Said Khreisat
Eun Kim
Gene Kornegay
Weldon Kruger
Pablo Marvin
Dwain Mayfield
Frank Muller
Mahmood Mushtaq
David Preng
Gary Richardson
Ed Solymosy
Reynaldo Spinelli
Deborah Walker
Hilmar Zeissig

The following notes are in chronological order.

Day One:
The meeting was brought to order with greetings form Chad Wootton and Chairman Rey Spinelli. Rey specifically thanked Interim President Mark Hussey for all he has done over the past 18 months and for his support of the International Advisory Board. Chad gave the agenda overview and introduced Interim President Hussey and Incoming President Michael K. Young.

President’s Welcome & Campus Update
Dr. Mark Hussey, Interim President began his presentation by thanking the Board for their dedication and hard work over the years. He then gave an overview beginning with the searches being conducted for new Deans.

- With sixteen colleges, normally have deans with 4 year appointments rotating off terms at around 2-3 per year, last few years have had conversion of multiple terms ending at same time. When he returns to be Dean of AGLS, he will be the longest serving dean. Focus of Provost to finalize searches and have secured deans for the School of Public Health, Mays Business School, the Law School and College of Education. Will soon be announcing the College of Liberal Arts dean and are working on College of Science and Medical School.
- An estimated 9,000 students will receive diplomas at May graduations.
- Currently targeting 10,000 for admission in fall of 2015. We had 34,000 submit completed applications – up over last year, accepted 21,000 and predict about 10,000 will come. Transfer and graduate student applications are also up.
- Research Expenditures put Texas A&M in the top 20 according to the National Science Foundation; we are the only University in Texas on the list.
- The Legislative session is going very well and things are looking very good to Texas A&M. Hussey asked all to make a point of thanking their legislators for that.
- On the International front the University reconstituted the International Programs Committee and restructure Global Programs Support bringing it under Public Partnership and Outreach. We are now positioned to provide support to all colleges keeping international in the colleges where it belongs.
- Hosted Ambassador Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency recently visited Texas A&M as was extremely impressed with the breadth of our Nuclear programs and international expertise in this arena. Texas A&M was the first public institution he visited in the U.S.
- Visits by President of APLU(Association of Public&Land Grant Universities) Peter McPherson and President of AAU (Association of American Universities) Hunter Rawlings to Texas A&M, gave these leaders a look at what we are doing. Both were impressed with the level of international partnership, community engagement and balance of excellence and size. Hunter Rawling particularly impressed with our Regents Scholars (first generation) students.
- Had an opportunity to visit with the Emir of Qatar during visit to DC and Houston and discuss the future of the TAMUQ campus
- Commented on the Solitis Center Celebration and the good outcomes from the meeting.
Following the celebration he and the Regents attending asked for a list of needs and wishes which Director Eugenio Gonzalez and Global Ambassador Chris Houser provided. Hussey announced that the President’s office was contributing $150,000 to the Center with the hope that the Provost and VP for Research would each consider contributions to match or impact the listing of needs.

Announced the signed Service Provider Agreement with Hacienda Santa Clara for IT equipment and preferred rates and scheduling. Commented that equipment would soon be shipped to Mexico (pending approvals from Customs). Hussey thanked Pablo Marvin for his support and reminded Board members of the fall meeting at Santa Clara in October.

Hussey ended his comments by thanking the Board for their support, passion and commitment to him during his time as interim and for Texas A&M University. He then introduced incoming President Michael K. Young.

Young gave a casual talk first thanking Mark Hussey for his term as interim and his work in moving the University forward. He said that the international realm has always been important to him and what he believes an international experience does to launch students in to the world, reminding all that the world our students are entering into and will operate from has no borders – it is seamless. Our students will be working on issues that connect all of us such as a sustainable environments, water, food safety, and energy. They will be on the cutting edge of our future.

He opened the floor for questions and Board members shared their concerns for international student visas and continuing Hussy’s work in Latin American. Young shared his background and what made him an advocate of international experiences. He related the story of living two years in Japan as part of his youth mission work and how it launched him into a career that used his experience. He related that while all universities do good work in offering study abroad and recruiting international students, there is much more universities can do. He talked about the timeliness of the launching of our new Capital Campaign and how we can make more international experiences available for all students, not just those that can afford to go.

Texas A&M School of Law Presentation
Andrew “Andy” Morriss, J.D. PhD. And Buzbee Dean of Law gave a presentation on what the law school is doing to build a reputation and how they are doing it.

- They are looking at peer institutions and have gathered data on how they are ranked
- They have strategized a plan for how they want to get where they want to go and in what time frame
- Improving their faculty and their impact in the area of publications
- Expanding their admissions staff
- Created a program for home institution prospect that will allow them to attend without the LSAT
- They made the decision to look for students with initiative and will offer incentives to get them to the school, explaining that it is important to have fewer students and have them place well after graduation than to have lots of students to make the budget, but not have a good showing in the rankings post-graduation
- Broadening their reach with new programs such as Intellectual Property clinics and Professionalism & Leadership Program.
- Building a global Curriculum
- Adding International experiences
- Improving the website and other materials
- They are learning to make sue of the A&M Advantage and the Aggie Network to raise money and to get good internships for their students
In parting Morriss asked the board for help in two areas:
- Come speak to law students about your international experiences
- Help them find internships (no need to worry about them being paid, the School will cover that and they don’t have to be in law necessarily – they can be in any professional setting that will give them experience, for example an accounting firm or a bank)

2015 Outstanding international Alumnus Award Luncheon
The Board and attending IPC members were invited to take part in honoring Dr. José Manuel Cabrera Sixto ’90, Rector General of the University of Guanajuato in Mexico as the 2015 Outstanding International Alumni Award honoree in a luncheon hosted by Association of Former Students, College of Ag&Life Sciences and President Hussey. The event took place at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center where Texas A&M Interim President Mark A. Hussey and The Association of Former Students’ President and CEO Porter S. Garner III ’79 presented the award along with Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean William A. Dugas of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. A complete news release can be viewed at http://today.tamu.edu/2015/04/29/jose-manuel-cabrera-sixto-named-2015-outstanding-international-alumnus/

Following the luncheon, Board members were invited to view the country culture booths in the Memorial Student Center as part of International Student Week, I-Week.

TAMU Headlines, IAM Member Update
Chad Wootton gave an overview of the University listing some of the top headlines for the year. (see PowerPoint online for details.
- Ranking and recognition – one of the most interesting is the Chronicle of Diversity in Higher Education-TAMU #1 Hispanic PhDs & Top 10 African American Masters & PhD
- Academic Year Degrees Awarded totaled 13, 944, the highest in the state and in TAMU history.
- Enrollment Growth to Fill Pipeline
  - 62,000 Total University (HSC, TAMUQ(527) & TAMUG (2400))
  - 13,000 Graduate & Professional
  - 6,000 International (125 Countries)
  - Agrilife Research #1 in Research Expenditures (FY12), passing Florida, Illinois, Purdue, UC Davis at 176.4 M
- Leadership Change
  - President Search –Michael K. Young, May 1st
  - Jerry Strawser Named Vice President for Finance & CFO
  - New Dean Joyce Alexander, Education
  - Dean Joe Newton, Science, (3 Terms), search underway
  - Dean TBD, Liberal Arts, pending BOR Approval next week
  - New Dean Eli Jones, Mays Business School
  - Dean Mark Weichold, TAMU- Qatar (2 Terms), search underway
  - Vice President Marketing & Communications, Jason Cook joined Athletics Department
  - Shane Hinckley named interim, Programmatic Review initiated
  - Vice President for Student Affairs, President Young Reviewing 2 finalists
  - Tom Reber named interim, Taskforce Review complete, Search Underway
  - New Vice Chancellor for Marketing & Communications at TAMU System office, Terry McDevitt

Member updates
- Gene Kornegay, Editorial Featured in USA Today
- Dwain Mayfield–Chair Elect, Association of Former Students
  - 3rd International Advisory Board Member (Kruger & Bermudez)
- Pablo Marvin to be Aggie Dad (again).. Sophia ’19
- Deb Walker, College Mom as well
Reflections on Soltis Center 5th Year Anniversary
Dr. Eugenio Gonzalez, Director of the Soltis Center gave a slide presentation about the Center (will be posted online). He included the following:

- showed the growth of the center over the past six years since the opening
- gave information on the partnerships they have developed at institutions in Costa Rica
- showed Board members what has happened in terms of research at the center including the 10-m Meteorological tower that measures air temperature and relative humidity, as well and wind speed and direction, solar radiation and barometric pressure, a 40 meter walk up canopy tower with sensors for multiple variables and the weir dam constructed to monitor hourly discharge from the main watershed.
- explained the different funded and pending projects through 2018 form NSF, Department of Energy and Earthwatch
- Key publications research from research conducted there.
- He also shared some slides of the biodiversity of the Center and ended with a few photos of the 5th Anniversary.

Breakout sessions for Board Subcommittees Work Sessions Ending Day One
Board members broke up into Sub Committee groups for Operations, Awards & Nominations and International Studies with instructions to bring reports to the Friday meeting. Board members left s their committees adjourned.

2015 Bush Excellence Awards & Texas A&M International Advisory Board Reception and Dinner
The 2015 Bush Excellence Awards for international teaching, international research and international public service were presented to Dr. Paul J. Batista, Dr. Hans A. Schuessler and Dr. Barbara J. Gastel at the dinner honoring international excellence hosted by Interim President Mark A. Hussey and the Texas A&M International Advisory Board. Mr. Frederick D. McClure, CEO of the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation presented each recipient with a plaque and a check for $2,000 during the dinner presentation. A news release can be viewed at http://today.tamu.edu/2015/04/24/bush-excellence-awards-honors-texas-am-faculty-excellence/

Day Two
Rey Spinelli brought the meeting to order and Chad gave a review of the agenda for day two.

International Affairs Update
Dr. Gregory Gause, professor and head of the new International Affairs Department in the Bush School of Government & Public Service gave an update on what has occurred since his arrival last fall.

1) He announced that Dean Crocker is retiring as of May 2016, giving the College plenty of time to find a new dean.

2) Faculty additions that give us a good core on Mexican political economy:
   a. Raymond Robertson is an economist, currently professor of economics at Macalaster College, widely published on labor and development economics. He is also chair of the US Department of Labor’s advisory committee on labor provisions in free trade agreements. He has published on the effects of NAFTA on Mexican wage rates and was a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico.
   b. Emily Sellars is just receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. She is a political scientist with a research interest in political economy. Her dissertation is on immigration issues in past periods of Mexican history. She will be joining us in the 2016-17 academic year, after a year as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Chicago.

3) Intention to develop a one-year executive master’s program in international affairs. This would be aimed at people already in the field, who have had at least 8-10 years of professional experience and who would like the option of spending a year to enhance their professional credentials. We think this would be particularly attractive to foreign professionals in the field, who might be able to get support from their employers (government ministries, IGO’s, NGO’s) for a year of education in the U.S. We will keep you appraised as we develop the proposal to bring through the University system.
4) Asks from the International Affairs Department to the IAB:
   a. Formation of an advisory board as a subcommittee of IAB for the IA department
   b. Help in identifying and security internships in international settings for our students
   c. Advice on recruiting international students

- The department has a small but very diverse student population with students coming from 25 countries and 38 states. Most are Fulbright Scholars and they would like to increase that number to 20 percent. They need to know where to publicize that will attract the attention of international students.

- Following Dr. Gause’s remarks board member Hildegard Boucsein gave a short report about her activities and experiences with the Bush School which she might be able to bring into the requested board subcommittee. She had co-organized a visit of Dean Crocker to the German based Bosch Stiftung in Stuttgart one of the big European foundations who at this point did not have any contacts with Southwestern US institutions or universities.

- As a first result they funded a capstone project of the Bush School (this replaces the master thesis and refers to a “real world project” of a “real world client”). The student group gave a most competent and instructive briefing about their findings and all of the represented Bosch Stiftung project managers were literally deeply impressed by the quality and professionalism of that Bush School group. This would be a great basis, according to HB, to continue searching for joint projects and ideas. She told the board that she was also able to place three Bush School students in Germany as interns, one at the renowned Regional Center run by the Pentagon and the German Verteidigungsministerium in Garmisch at the George C. Marshall Center. The other two are being placed in the Political Department of the German Defense Ministry.

- Chad Wootton shared that as they are developing their recruitment strategy they may want look at existing MOAs at [https://globalpartnerships.tamu.edu/](https://globalpartnerships.tamu.edu/) to identify what Universities might be interested in giving information to their students.

After some discussion about the makeup of the International Affairs department, the Board would like for Gause to come back and give more statistical information about his student body.

**International Research Initiatives**
Dr. Glen Laine, professor of Veterinary Medicine and Vice president for research presented information about research administration services and in particular international research funding opportunities being pursued by the Research services team. Power point included a number of highlights including:
- Existing relationship with Weizmann Institute of Israel
- CONACYT in Mexico, planned symposium in June 2015

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Awards & Nominations Subcommittee**: Charge: Facilitate review of new member nominations and recommendations to Exec Committee and full IAB; Support IPC members needs for College council, committee and taskforce membership suggestions to Deans; Serve as members of international awards and recognition committees as needed; and promote nominations of globally impactful former students and friends for various awards programs. Facilitated by Linda Edwards.

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes to the last meeting in the fall. They discussed the following and made recommendations:

- **Outstanding International Alumnus Award**: Subcommittee members were asked to encourage nominations of appropriate Outstanding International Alumnus to the Colleges they are associated with. They would like to make this announcement to the Board at large.

- **Class of 2015**: The Subcommittee was tasked with contacting members of the class of 2015 to determine if they want to continue as Board members for another three years. Azmi and Eric
were asked in the session and they have agreed to continue as Board Members for another 3 year term. Gary Richardson volunteered to check with those present at the meeting including Klaus Aurisch, George Donnelly, Kim Hammer, Eun Kim, and Hilmar Zeissig. The Sub Committee recommended that Chairman Rey Spenilli and Chad Wootton contact the following: Karl Hopkins, Dwain Mayfield, Ed Monto, David Preng, Rolando Santos and Tom Turzak. Gary Richardson reported that all members he contacted had agreed to remain for another three years, prior to fall meeting.

- **New Board Members:** The Subcommittee recommended that chairman Rey Spinelli and/or Chad Wootton should consider offers and contact with candidates Campana and Quironez-Meza.

- **New Board Member Candidates:** The Subcommittee reviewed the two new candidates. They have the following recommendations:
  - Limit Board members to submit only one new candidate per year.
  - Put forward only Anita Kadala at the time and secure more information for Anita Van Alstyne.
  - Consider asking In-Coming President Michael K. Young to make a few suggestions for new candidate from his network.
  - Continue to encourage IPC reps to make nominations.

- **Distinguished Alumni Nominations:** The Subcommittee reviewed the list of Outstanding international Alumnus in an effort to choose one or two to put forward for the next round of candidates for the Association of Former Students Distinguished Alumnus. Of those on the list, it is noted that Pablo Marvin, Shariq Yousufzai and Khalid Al Falih have already been named Distinguished Alumnus. The committee felt unprepared to select any addition OIA members without reviewing the Award criteria and at least a Bio of a few. Linda suggested three candidate for consideration including. Alberto Aleman Zubieta, 2001; President Martin Torrijos Espino, 2007; and Dr. Christiaan Mulder, 2011; Linda further suggested that she send them the Award Criteria and the bios of the three to consider. There was some concern that more information would be needed on what these potential candidates have been doing since they received the award.

*International Studies Department Subcommittee:* Charge is Interact with faculty and staff of International Studies Department to build on strategic planning and initiatives; Build connections with the full IAB for program and initiative support of the Department; Promote international opportunities with faculty and staff; Provide external review of department progress; and identify resource opportunities. Facilitated by Dr. Bob Shandley.

The Sub Committee discussed continued focused hirings of the Department, strategic planning initiatives, new partnerships including Randy Kluver and the Confucius Institute, Mexico trips including participation in Hacienda Santa Clara and St. Chiara Italy. Mentioned new partnership with Randy Kluver on Project Go, military ROTC international experiences.

**Recommendations included:** the Committee also discussed the need to expose more people to the Department, its faculty and efforts with students. A social and educational event was discussed for Houston in the Fall semester. A number of board members offered suggestions for event format, invitations and venues. Chad and Bob Shandley to coordinate.

*Operations Subcommittee:* Committee Charge is to Support Vice Provost in counsel, planning and fiduciary review of international agreements and facilitations of associations and facilities as in the Costa Rica Civil Association and Soltis Center; Participate in annual review of International agreements and MOA’s; And Provide feedback on opportunities and proposed engagements by third parties, as appropriate. Facilitated by Chad Wootton

The Committee explored current status of Soltis Center and reviewed the needs list presented by Dr. Eugenio Gonzales and Dr. Chris Houser for President Hussey consideration. Also discussed the current
status of the Capital Campaign and the gift opportunities information presented by the Colleges and Provost, which includes a number of projects and initiatives to support internationalization efforts. Chad also reviewed the International Partnerships Overview prepared to address the system risk and compliance audit. Discussed how clearly defining the partnerships is helping faculty and colleges to understand resources available to assist. Questions about other “entities” like EU Center fit into this partnership model. Chad discussed differences between centers/institutes established to further faculty collaboration or focus scholarly efforts and these partnerships that support engagement by colleges.

Recommendations included: sharing the list of Soltis needs with the whole Board to determine if any had relations or contacts that could help with some of the needed items. Also as approved to share the Capital Campaign gift opportunities that are identified by the Colleges that perhaps IAB members can assist with or know foundations, corporations or individuals who may wish to support. Also discussed the request from Dr. Greg Gause for naming a new subcommittee for International Affairs, was suggested that Executive Committee should consider is this one or two subcommittees.

Board members were reminded that the fall meeting would take place at Hacienda Santa Clara in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico in the fall on October 21-23, 2015. Registration form and information to be sent soon. Spring 2016 dates will be set for April 27-29.

The board meeting was closed by Chairman Rey Spinelli to move to the Luncheon for the awarding of the Eppright Outstanding International Student Award and meetings with students from the Academy of Future International Leaders.

Eppright Outstanding International Student Award
Akshata Kulkarni, a graduate student from India, was named the Texas A&M University’s 2015 Eppright Outstanding International Student Award. Kulkarni, who is pursuing a College of Agriculture and Life Sciences master’s degree in plant nutraceutical research, in addition to taking classes in finance and marketing, was presented the award during the luncheon. You can read the full story at: http://today.tamu.edu/2015/04/28/indian-student-wins-texas-ams-eppright-outstanding-student-award/

Adjournment
As Rey Spinelli was adjourning the meeting and luncheon, Chad was able to announce that Dr. Pam Matthews, former Vice Provost would be reviewed for permanent appointment as Dean of Liberal Arts at Board of Regents Meeting next week.