

**Asia Council meeting
Friday, January 27, 2012
Georgia College Macon Center, Room 308**

1. HOUSEKEEPING

The meeting was called to order by the Council Chair, Salli Vargis (Georgia Perimeter College) at 1:10 PM. Also present were, in clockwise order around the room, Paul Rodell (Georgia Southern University), Flor Bondal (Georgia College), Wei Liu (Georgia Gwinnett College), DK Kim (Dalton State College), Sunny Park (Dalton State College), Sunita Manian (Georgia College), Baogang Guo (Dalton State College), David Starling (Valdosta State University), Jianchuan Zhou (Albany State University), Jonathan Leightner (Augusta State University), Tracie Provost (Middle Georgia College), and Tom Howard (Armstrong Atlantic State University).

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES & APPROVAL. The minutes of the previous meeting, on September 23, 2011, were reviewed and approved.

3. FINANCIAL UPDATE. Our agency account shows no change at \$15,032.55. This amount does not, however, reflect the cost of meals at the “Teaching South Asia” faculty workshop held at Georgia Perimeter Clarkston on October 28 – 29, 2011. The change will be reflected in the balance as soon as the payment is made to Campus Cafe. The amount for food will probably be around \$500.

4. NEXT FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

It was generally agreed that the Teaching South Asia faculty workshop in October was a great success and that the Council should sponsor another one, this time on East Asia, in academic year 2012 – 2013. The tentative date is February 8 – 9, 2013, which will coincide with Chinese New Year.

There was discussion about whether presenters in this workshop should all come from within the University System of Georgia or whether they might come from outside. The conclusion was that preference would be given to USG professors but that outside speakers could be considered. Travel and lodging expenses will be covered for all presenters but there will be no honorarium payments. Jonathan Leightner proposed that we should explore the possibilities of sponsorship by organizations outside the USG if this means financial support, and after some discussion the proposal was approved.

Baogang Guo said that he had some leftover funds that could provide up to \$1000 for such a workshop.

Jonathan Leightner, Baogang Guo, D. K. Kim, and Salli Vargis will serve on a committee to explore these options and start organizing.

4. ASIA COUNCIL WEBSITE. Asia Council minutes and meeting announcements were posted on a webpage hosted by Kennesaw State University for many years, but that arrangement has become dormant, with nothing new added since 2009. Other regional councils have experienced the same problem with this and other websites around the university system. There was extensive discussion at the System Council on International Education meeting this morning about the prospects of consolidating and updating all such information on a single USG website. Linda Noble, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs, was in attendance, and responded that the International Education webpage under Faculty Affairs could probably do most of this, but that she would have to check on it and get back to Neal McCrillis, chair of the SCIE, who would then pass the word to us.

David Starling volunteered to host the Asia Council web site at Valdosta State University. There was agreement that we could pursue both options.

5. OTHER SCIE BUSINESS. The System Committee on International Education also discussed insurance for study-abroad programs. Linda Noble introduced Bruce Holmes, the Board of Regents Chief of Police, who spoke about measures to improve communications related to the safety and security of students on study-abroad programs. He provided his office phone number for use in emergencies: 678/561-4745.

The SCIE elected Neal McCrillis as chair, and Ulf Kirchdorfer as vice-chair for full three-year terms. They had been serving unexpired terms up to this point. There were updates on the activities of the other four regional councils.

6. STUDY ABROAD

Existing programs

1) India: “The Wonder That is India: Politics, Literature, History and Culture.” led by Salli and George Vargis, Georgia Perimeter College. May 23 – June 10, 2012.

Only 2 or 3 students have signed up so far, but several faculty members have indicated an interest, and there was discussion about the possibility of a joint student/faculty program. The program’s website is www.gpc.edu/gpcglobe/india

2) China: Summer Study in China Program, led by Baogang Guo, Dalton State College, and Wilson Huang, Valdosta State University, May 7 – June 5, 2012.

The sign-up is 6 professors and 34 students. Baogang hopes for 2 more students to bring the professor/student ratio up to the usual 6. The program’s website is www.daltonstate.edu/china/

Proposed programs

3) South Korea

DK Kim and Sunny Park, Dalton State College, distributed a draft proposal for a 4 - week general studies program at Dongguk Univeristy and/or Korea Tech for 18-27 students and 3 USG professors, for early summer in 2013 or 2014. Details are still being worked out. The Council discussed this proposal at some length, voted to support it with the expectation of more detail at the next meeting.

7. ELECTION OF NEW SECRETARY.

The council's secretary, Tom Howard, who began serving in this capacity in the 2006 – 07 academic year, will be retiring from AASU at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year and moving to join his wife in Rhode Island. Accordingly it is necessary to pick a new secretary. Flor Bondal volunteered to take over the job and was elected by acclamation.

8. OTHER ITEMS

China: Summer Study Abroad – Albany State University, led by Jianchuan Zhoui, June 17 – July 15, 2012. Jianchuan requested help with advertising of the program and recruitment of students

Program at Xiamen University, Fujian Province.

More information at <https://sites.google.com/site/asumaco/china>

9. NEXT MEETING DATE. The next meeting is tentatively planned for September 21, 2012, at the same locale as today's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned about 2:45.

Thomas F. Howard
Asia Council Secretary

Personal note: I'd like to say that I've enjoyed serving as the Asia Council secretary, even through these last couple of years of financial retrenchment by the USG. I think the Asia Council can continue to perform a valuable service in strengthening and encouraging Asia-related programs at USG institutions, and I look forward to being kept in the communications loop regarding all such activities.

Tom Howard