UNT Provost’s China Advisory Council Fall 2013 Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2013
3:00PM-4:30PM
Hurley Administration Building 204

Minutes

In Attendance:

Council members:
- Warren Burggren, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, CAC Chair
- Yong Tao, Department Chair of Mechanical and Energy Engineering, CAC Co-Chair
- Su Gao, Department Chair of Mathematics, CAC Executive Committee Chair
- Rick Nader, Vice Provost for International Affairs
- Barrett Bryant, Department Chair of Computer Science and Engineering
- Li Fen “Anny” Chang, Department of Art Design
- Ben Dearman, Director of Graduate Admissions and Graduate Student Services, Toulouse Graduate School
- Jincheng Du, Department of Material Science and Engineering
- Yunfei Du, School of Library and Information Sciences
- Carol Anne Costabile Heming, Department Chair of World Languages, Literature, and Cultures
- Cathy Hu, Sino-American Transfer Program Advisor, UNT-International
- Allen Jackson, Department Chair of Kinesiology, Health Promotion, and Recreational Studies
- Dee Knight, Associate Dean, College of Merchandising, Hospitality and Tourism
- Patrick Liu, International Student Advisor, UNT-International
- Carol Ogden, Assistant Director of Intensive English Language Institute, UNT International
- Michael Sexton, Department of Management
- Harold Tanner, Department of History
- Yan Wan, Department of Electrical Engineering
- Vivian Wang, Director of China Programs, UNT-International
- Dale Yeatts, Department of Sociology
- Tao Zhang, Department of Kinesiology, Health Promotion, and Recreational Studies

Visitors:
- Jason Kouba, Director of Study Abroad, UNT International
- Lauren Helixon, Assistant Director, UNT Sustainability (representing Todd Spinks, Director, UNT Sustainability)
- Aleka Myre, Director of Sponsored Students and Special Programs Center, UNT-International
- Jennifer Rogla, Director of International Partnerships and Education, UNT-International
- Orie Varner, Assistant Director of Study Abroad, UNT International
Pieter Vermeulen, Director of International Recruitment and Alumni Engagement, UNT International  
Amanda White, Assistant Director of Global Engagement, UNT International  

Agenda Items  

1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Warren Burggren and Yong Tao  

2. Introduction of Participants  

3. Powerpoint Presentation by Rick Nader  
   a. Charge and Expectations of the CAC  
      The text of the charge can be found at http://international.unt.edu/CAC.  
   b. Interest Areas for Engagement (UNT International staff responsibilities and CAC member interest area survey results)  
      The areas correspond to those listed in the CAC Interest Survey.  
   c. Overview Goals and Status of UNT China Engagement  
      i. Study Abroad & Student Exchange  
         Increase the proportion of UNT students having a meaningful global experience in China by the time they graduate  
         Baseline: 60 of ~600 study abroad students (10%) (US Average is 5.3%)  
         Goal: 120 of 800  
      ii. Research Development  
         Increase the proportion of UNT’s research that involves collaboration with China  
         Baseline: Estimated ~$800K extramural funding  
         Goal: $1.5 mil  
      iii. Recruitment  
         Increase to 2,500 the number of international students matriculating toward a degree, meeting or exceeding national averages from priority countries (i.e., China);  
         Baseline: 345 students from China (80 new students from China in 2013)  
         Goal: 450 (100 more undergraduates/50 more grad)  
         Increase the number of sponsored students from China  
         Baseline: ~12 (China Scholarship Council and 1+2+1)  
         Goal: 35  
      iv. Partnerships/MOU
Increase the number of new agreements with top tier global programs or institutions in China
Baseline: 10 qualified programs in QS/Shanghai rankings
Goal: 20
Increase the number of visiting scholars from China at UNT
Baseline: 39 J scholars
Goal: 50

v. Academic Programs
Establish new academic credential/programs that include language or significant China-focused content
Baseline: Asian Studies Minor; Chinese Minor, Global Perspectives Certificate, International Business Certificate; 9 courses across 8 departments list China (History: 2 courses; Merchandising: 1 study abroad course; Geography: 1 study abroad course)
Recommendations for the goals are needed from the council.

vi. Alumni Development
Increase to 5 the number of active Alumni Networks abroad
Goal: One new alumni chapter in China
An important emphasis is to include friends of UNT in addition to alumni.

vii. Academic English Language Instruction
IELI will have 3 satellite programs and/or active feeders abroad
Goal: At least one in China
IELI will enroll 500 total students in Denton, with >30% transitioning to matriculation toward a UNT degree
Baseline: 50 or 12% of total enrollment (Chinese IELI students in 2013)
Goal: 100 or 20% of total enrollment
Allen Jackson mentioned an informal but effective model of language exchange between a retired Kinesiology faculty member and 3 visiting scholars from China. He might be interested in leading an organized effort.

viii. Community Engagement
Improve the quality and quantity of UNT-Chinese Community relations
Baseline: Student Clubs, GDAAC, NTCFA, Dragon Boat Race
Warren Burggren commented that the data gathered from the interest survey could be the basis of a triage to determine the priorities by the council. What does the council want to focus to get some initial, early successes? Where does the council want to spend the time on?
Yong Tao commented that the council is the mechanism to take many existing efforts to the next level. He noted that most of the engagement areas need involvement from the faculty, programs,
Barrett Bryant noted that many faculty members have individual connections with Chinese universities. He wondered if something more concrete can be done in addition to the existing collaborations and research exchanges. He gave an example idea of UNT faculty member offering a short course in China with UNT credit.

Allen Jackson suggested that part of the UNT’s China engagement could be to provide resources to partially fund faculty research trips to China. He pointed out that such trips might help attract graduate students to UNT. Yong Tao commented that combined funding is already commonly expected, that such trips can include graduate students, and seed money can be spent on such initiatives with justifications of long-term benefits. He mentioned that one of the long-term China-engagement objectives is to have UNT campuses in China that are financially self-sustained.

Pieter Vermuelen emphasized that successful recruitment will contribute to the overall success of other efforts. Revenue from the extra tuitions/fees and formula funding will help support all other China engagement efforts that need substantial resources to sustain.

Carol Anne Costable Heming expressed concerns about the current capacities of Chinese language offering. She recognized that there is a need to expand the Chinese language program and course offerings, but noted that there is currently one continuing lecturer teaching 5 classes and one adjunct instructor pending funding approvals. A tenure line is needed in order to implement a major in Chinese language or China studies. She wondered about the possibility of having agreements so that Chinese language instructors can come from China. She mentioned some model implemented at her previous institution where evening classes were offered to faculty who have interests in Chinese and/or connections with Chinese researchers. A structure is needed to integrate and evaluate all the ideas and models.

Warren Burggren urged that the council considers conducting an inventory analysis of existing China engagement efforts. He shared that a standardized inquiry form was sent out by President’s Diversity Council and the results were very useful. **Action Item:** He would contact the Diversity Council to make the survey form available to CAC.  CAC will then develop a similar inventory.

Barrett Bryant commented that the number of Chinese students at UNT did not increase significantly in the last 20 years, whereas UT Dallas saw a growth from 300 to 1200, with 74% of increase in the last three years. He suggested that we should be able to learn from best practices and inquire about whether we know what UTD is doing. Rick Nader and Pieter Vermeulen responded that we do know what UTD is doing, and it is a combination of offering programs that are attractive to Chinese students (business and engineering), working with agents to increase the recruitment, and offering competitive scholarships.

Yunfei Du wondered if it is possible to support China initiatives through fundraising. Rick Nader responded by pointing out that we want to separate alumni/friends relationship from fundraising.

Harold Tanner summarized that there seem to be three major goals of China engagement. (1) Increase UNT’s research engagement with China. (2) Increase recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students. (3) Increase UNT American students of knowledge and experience with China. He suggested that the council come up with 2-3 concrete ideas and recommendations in each area through the work of the EC and subcommittees. These concrete recommendations should be
realistic in view of the available resources. Yong Tao suggested that the council focuses on obstacles that are present in the current efforts and investigate ways to overcome them.

Dale Yeatts made the suggestion to have visitors from China to be present at our future meetings. Warren Burggren added that subgroups of this council can meet with any future delegations from China.

Dee Knight asked if there is a vision established for this council. Su Gao commented that this could be one of the first things we develop as a council. Allen Jackson shared that his vision in China engagement is for UNT to be the school of choice in Shanghai area as far as Kinesiology is concerned.

4. Review and Discussion
   i. Draft “Venture Fund - China” RFP and Review Process by Rick Nader

   *There is a maximum of $50K one-time funding available as the Venture Fund for China Engagement. The purpose is to seed and stimulate academic, research or other meaningful exchanges and engagement, and/or the development of new resources that improve the quality of UNT’s collaborations with and in China.*

   **Action Item:** The Executive Committee will develop an RFP, referencing the draft developed by Rick Nader and determine the review process.

   ii. Executive Committee Selection Process by Su Gao

   *The proposal is to have an elected committee from current council members. The Call for Nominations will go out by email shortly. The intention is to have a council meeting every semester, but the EC will meet more frequently, possibly every month. The council business will be mostly conducted by email. Self-nominations are welcome. For each nominee we would like to include on the ballot some information on interest, experience, and China-engagement ideas.*

   **Action Item:** The nomination period will be one week, and email elections will take another week. The EC will start its work immediately following the election.

5. Summary of Action Items:
   b. RFP development and process (Target date for completing the RFP: December 15, led by Su Gao)
   c. Executive Committee formation (Target date: Nov. 13, led by Su Gao.)

Prepared by Su Gao and updated by Yong Tao