

# Global Programs Advisory Committee (GPAC) Spring 2018 Meeting

February 5, 2018

## Meeting notes

**Attendees:** Mark Dougherty, Yifen Wang, Xing Ping Hu, Leo De La Fuente, Adam Newby, Dennis Shannon, Wilmer Pacheco, Wayde Morse, Stanley Windham, Harriet Giles, Karen Veverica, Tung-Shi Huang, Kelly Pippin, Bill Daniels

### **Introductions and Term of service:**

- Dennis Shannon called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- Self-introduction among attendees.
- Bill Daniels' current appointment as the 'Acting Director of Global Programs' will end on 05/31/2018. Dr. Patterson and Dr. Fadamiro will discuss next steps.

### **New Business/Action Items:**

- Study Abroad:
  - David Weaver (CSES) will be leading his study abroad trip to Yangling, Shaanxi, China in May 2018 for the one last time; he is looking into passing the torch to another faculty member.
  - Russell Muntifering (AS) will be leading a study trip to Peru in Spring Break 2018; his team (him and colleagues from AERS) has secured 20 students for this trip.
  - Harriet Giles (College of Human Sciences) and Wayde Morse are going to the Fiji study abroad trip in summer 2018. Harriet encouraged CoAg students/faculty to participate in her college's study abroad trips. She mentioned that she and Dean June Henton will be traveling to Australia with Hospitality and Hotel Management.
- 3+2/3+1 Programs; College-level general MOU(s):
  - The revised 3+2 agreement between EPP and Qingdao Agricultural University was signed by AU and sent to SACS for review/approval.
  - Several general MOUs led by School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences are under review.
  - The Department of Horticulture is in the process of renewing the existing MOU with Hubei Academy of Agriculture Sciences.
  - The College of Agriculture, through Dennis Shannon's efforts (CSES), recently signed an agreement with the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC). CSES will assist with recording workshops/training so that they can be offered online using Canvas Catalog on ACESAG servers. Discussions are also underway to create a center for fertilizer sciences in the College of Agriculture.

- Potential collaboration may be developed with the Air Force Culture and Language Center (AFCLC); AFCLC has a significant interest in identifying subject matter experts who have significant cultural knowledge, are proficient in the language(s) spoken in a given country, and have on-the-ground experience that could become the basis for fostering cooperation between the United States and that nation. Food and agriculture are two areas that are good starting points for conversation that will hopefully evolve into cooperation.
- **Working groups:**
  - Cuba working groups have always been active. The most recent travel to Cuba is in November 2017. OGP is currently collecting project updates from PIs and Co-PIs who went to this trip.
  - Wilmer Pacheco mentioned a \$50,000 funding for training from the World Poultry Foundation. He and his colleagues are planning on traveling to Cuba in May 2018 on academic visa.
  - Due to current political environment between US and Cuba, it is nearly impossible for us to bring Cuban scientists to the US. It is also suggested that our working group members who plan to travel to Cuba should start their academic visa process well ahead of time.
  - Bill Daniels encouraged members to form another working group, for example, a China working group. This will allow us to access various funding programs and fund joint share programs that China offers.
- **Other International engagement:**
  - Xing Ping Hu (EPP) accepted two Turkish students (government funded) as of Fall 2017 and suggested that CoAg could try to explore opportunities with Turkey.
  - Mark Dougherty (BE) is interested in collaborating with China Agricultural University in Beijing, China. He is also working on a potential proposal with Egypt regarding water pollution.
  - Dennis Shannon has a current project with USAID in northern Haiti on developing a 'Soil Testing' lab. Due to various reasons, this project has been extended multiple times each on a 6-month term. However, there is also possibility of collaboration with a local university on an coffee and cacao agroforestry project to be funded by the Inter-American Development Bank
  - Auburn University would like to take lead on 'Aquafish Innovation Lab' when the request for proposals comes out.
  - Mention was made of Peanut Innovation Lab as a source of funding
  - Dr. Leith would like AU to determine which are the best research institutions around the world that can help to elevate our research proposals.
  - Harriett Giles discussed a summit in Rome organized by FAO and the potential for collaboration with the FAO Washington office.

- **Housing:**

- Housing for international visitors is still a heated issue for Auburn University. The idea of a 'Guest House' is well supported among meeting attendees. Yet there is not a clear solution from the university level. Many faculty hosts are concerned that the current housing situation in Auburn will discourage international visitors from coming.
- Related to this, Karen Veverica suggested keeping boxes of "move-in" supplies (linens, dinnerware, pots and pans) for use by students and visiting scientists on short-term visits so that they do not have the added expense of buying these items.
- Bill Daniels and Kelly Pippin met with AU Global Director of Student Service, Mr. Charus Campbell, and Accommodations Coordinator Rachel Suddes to discuss options to use their 'excess' housing from the AU Global program to house visiting scholars. The intent is to provide the connection between AU Global and visiting scholars as one option for short-term housing in Auburn. They utilize 3&4-bedroom apartments at Tiger Lodge and The Grove. Contracts would be between scholars and AU Global, not the College of Agriculture. Dr. de la Fuentes expressed major concerns with this program because lack of responsiveness to inquiries, high costs, etc.

- **Old Business:**

- Build a tracking system of "who does what where". Kelly has drafted a survey through Qualtrics, Bill Daniels and Kelly will look into it soon and send the survey out.