

Minutes: KU International Affairs (KUIA) Committee

Monday, January 11, 2021 | 1:00 pm | Zoom

Attendees: Virginia Harper Ho (chair); Billie Archer (staff); Whitney Baker (faculty); Hollie Hall (voting student); Kwangok Song (faculty); Peter Ukpokodu (faculty); Aramis Watson (staff)

Absent: Humberto Salinas (voting student); Charlie Bankart (ex officio)

Guests: Carl Taylor and Matthew Battiston of the KU Office of Global Operations & Security (GOS); Chris Brown (Vice Provost for Faculty Development)

Chair Harper Ho called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. Minutes

November 20, 2020 minutes approved. Motion to approve: Hall motioned, Song seconded.

2. Introduction & Agenda (Chair Virginia Harper Ho)

Harper Ho asked for committee member introductions for guests.

Harper Ho praised the committee, especially Hall and Salinas, for work on the COVID tuition waiver initiative. She noted that international students were invited via email to reach out if they have enrollment holds because of late tuition payments from home countries. KU will take care of these issues on an individual basis.

3. Global Operations and Security (GOS) (Taylor and Battiston)

Harper Ho introduced Taylor and Battiston and contextualized today's discussion. She noted that the committee is interested in how GOS initiates a policy process and how it decides on relevant stakeholders. She asked them to articulate how our committee can be more involved in policy process, either at the planning stage or once the process has started. She also defined for Taylor and Battiston the function and scope of our committee, noting this year's charges for bridging across silos, including to GOS.

Brown stated that as an international university and a public institution, KU is subject to myriad rules and regulations at multiple levels, and from funding agencies. Faculty Development partners with GOS to make faculty aware of the rules and regulations and help faculty navigate them.

GOS shared a power point with the committee regarding the work of their office Taylor and Battiston highlighted the following concepts:

- The main purpose of GOS is to identify risks for the university and to create coordination and consistency in all areas relating to university international and security operations.
- GOS identifies issues, provides strategic planning guidance, and advises stakeholders concerning high-risk activities.
- GOS is concerned with research, collaboration, contracts, international agreements, international visitors, academic freedom and security, and professional development.

- GOS focuses on safety, security, and compliance with regulations and laws. International tensions have increased in recent years. GOS hopes to protect people, facilities, classified information, and controlled unclassified information.
- GOS complies with KU, federal, and international regulations.
- GOS oversees the Global Operations Committee in order to coordinate and promote consistency in regulation. Members represent Human Resources, Comptroller, International Programs, Office of Research, IT Security, KU Public Safety, Medical Clinic, CIO, plus people in Chancellor's Office. It's possible the International Relations Committee might tie in here, perhaps have representation on this committee, if senior leadership approves.
- There is also an Executive Security Committee for certain risks or issues emanating from the federal government. Committee members have federal security clearances. This group may not always be able to be fully transparent, based on the laws.

Q: Harper Ho for GOS: When a new risk is noted, with whom do you decide to engage?

A: First GOS looks at who's involved in new requirements from a stakeholder standpoint:

- A research-related risk will go to KU Center for Research (KUCR), Charlie Bankart, and Chris Brown. GOS will share with people who have other operational interests.
- If GOS identifies a serious risk, it will first go to the Provost's Office, sometimes also the Chancellor's Office if it's a more systemic risk issue across the university.
- Risks that result in a potential new policy: GOS first contacts the Provost's Office, then allows the policy framework to happen like any other policy. The Provost's Office can decide to bring in other people.

Q: Harper Ho for GOS: Given a high risk area or high risk trend, such as the recent issue with China and intellectual property, and also the WeChat ban, there may be tension about how the university response unfolds. Could you explain how that policy was rolled out to the university?

A: GOS: GOS saw an executive order come down and informed the CIO's office. The CIO's office worked with GOS and others to make a plan and implement it. That example had to happen with a tight timeline.

Q: Archer for GOS: How does GOS decide who has operational interest when a new challenge is identified, especially in regard to the human capital side of international processes? Sometimes International Relations is not reached out to in a timely fashion, even for policies that directly affect those units. It might be helpful for Charlie Bankart to be consulted in these cases.

A: GOS brings in Bankart behind the scenes at various points. In order for him to be regularly consulted, the Chancellor and Provost would have to weigh in. Sometimes issues are brought to GOS, but not everything can be shared, according to government regulations regarding security clearances.

Q: Ukpokodu for Brown: As an administrator and tenured faculty member, how do you balance those roles when a faculty case is brought up for potential violation of international regulations, laws, or policies?

A: Brown: Any violation of any of our rules, whether global operations or not, is regularly brought to him by chairs and deans. His job is to facilitate some type of disciplinary action according to the Faculty Code and Rules/Regulations. It's not so much a balance but more of an opportunity as a faculty member to provide to leadership on the situation from a faculty perspective. The Vice Provost for Faculty Development will always be a tenured faculty member for this reason.

Harper Ho summarized recommendations to strengthen ties between GOS and this committee:

- The two entities could find ways to increase engagement with the Policy Office, so pertinent potential policies are filtered to and reviewed by the International Affairs Committee via University Senate. This would allow the committee to recommend specialists on campus to GOS that might not be consulted otherwise.
- A member of Governance or someone from the KUIA Committee might join the Global Operations Committee.

4. New Business

Hall and Salinas (with others), planned a Student Senate Town Hall on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) department, to be held tomorrow (January 12, 1-3 PM). Hall sent a flyer to the committee and invited all committee members to join. D.A. Graham will be discussing the new direction of the office. Harper Ho asked if Graham could forward that presentation to the committee; Hall said she would ask.

5. Future Meetings

Next meeting is February 9, 3-4 PM, with a focus on the new Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) department. Chris Brown, Jennifer Ng, and D.A. Graham will join us. We will also discuss Charge 4: COVID response and international students. Hall, Salinas, and Archer will provide a draft survey for the committee to review. This survey will eventually be distributed through Charlie's office to international students. Archer will invite Ali Soltanshahi to join us for that discussion.

Other meetings are scheduled for March 9, 3-4 PM, and April 9, 1-2 PM. Our final report is due on April 30.

6. Committee assignments and action items

Specific Charges 1-2: Harper Ho, Song

Specific Charge 3: Baker

Specific Charge 4: Archer, Hall, Salinas

Specific Charge 5: Ukpokodu, Watson

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Whitney Baker.