

AAICU Yerevan Communiqué
May 24, 2009

Meeting at the American University of Armenia in Yerevan from May 22-24, 2009, the Presidents of the Association of American International Colleges and Universities

- Re-affirmed their commitment to principles expressed in the AAICU Cairo Declaration of April 12, 2008 as the expression of the goals and core values of the Association. The Association continues to serve as a bridge for encouragement of quality American-style education outside the United States and for the translation of cultural and educational values in countries where AAICU institutions are located to constituencies in the United States;
- Welcomed the first simultaneous meetings in Yerevan of AAICU and AMICAL and the concluding joint session and recommended that this become standard practice. The Presidents also support the inclusion of AMICAL as an autonomous arm of AAICU;
- Approved the revised Bylaws of the Association with effect from May 24, 2009;
- Elected President David Arnold of the American University of Cairo as the AAICU President for a two-year term beginning May 25, 2009 and re-elected President Franco Pavoncello of John Cabot University as Vice President and Erik Nielsen of Franklin College as Secretary and Treasurer for two-year terms;
- Decided that the 2010 Annual AAICU meeting would be held at a date to be determined in late April/early May at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the 2011 meeting at the Irish American University in Dublin or the Institute for American Universities in Aix-en-Provence, France, the 2012 meeting at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy, and the 2013 meeting at Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco, or Lebanese American University in Beirut;
- Charged the President of AAICU to organize and execute a carefully planned delegation of about five AAICU presidents reflecting the diversity of the Association's membership to represent the Association's members and institutional interests to the Administration of President Barack Obama.

President Peter Armacost
Forman Christian College

President Andrea Leskes
Institute for American Universities

President Haroutune Armenian
American University of Armenia

Interim President Athanasios Moulakis
American University of Afghanistan

President David D. Arnold
The American University of Cairo

Acting Provost Waddah Nasr
American University of Beirut

Chancellor John S. Bailey
The American University of Greece

President Paul Haidostian
Haigazian University

President Christopher Hall
American University in Kosovo

Chancellor Peter Heath
American University of Sharjah

President Ellen Hurwitz
American University of Central Asia

President David Huwiler
American University in Bulgaria

President Richard Jackson
American College of Thessaloniki

President Ian Newbould
Richmond, The American International
University in London

President Erik Nielsen
Franklin College, Switzerland

President Franco Pavoncello
John Cabot University

President Driss Ouaouicha
Al Akhawayn University

President Celeste Schenck
American University of Paris

Provost Abdallah Sfeir
Lebanese American University

Committee on Bylaws and Membership

The Committee approved Bylaws for consideration and approval by the plenary.

Consistent with the revised bylaws, recommended that the AAICU President contact member institutions which did not participate in the past two meetings in order to verify their continued interest and participation.

Decided that the Committee on Bylaws and Membership will:

- 1) Develop in close cooperation with regional US accreditation agencies, particularly the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), a system for early identification of institutions abroad committed to US-style higher education and in the process of seeking US accreditation.
- 2) Poll present AAICU regular and associate members to identify potential candidates for AAICU membership in their respective regions.

Strategy and Programs Committee

The Committee supports the visit of an AAICU delegation to Washington. In preparation for the visit, it recommends drafting of a preliminary document emphasizing the following points:

- 1) the importance of the AAICU member institutions as American Universities abroad promoting international dialogue and the core values of American higher education;
- 2) encouraging the expansion of USAID financial support for eligible member institutions;
- 3) supporting the extension of Pell Grants to US students studying at AAICU member institutions;
- 4) extending federal research grant eligibility and institutional support to AAICU member institutions.

The Committee expressed concern about possible changes in federal loans and underlined the hope that any change to federal loan policies not discriminate against US students studying abroad at AAICU member institutions.

The Committee strongly encouraged AAICU member institutions to explore ways to facilitate exchange of students among the institutions belonging to the Association and charged the Chief Academic Officers with presenting an operational plan for implementing such exchanges by Fall 2010.

The Committee pledged to develop and promote inter-institutional sports activities.

The Committee favored sharing of information about compensation practices among AAICU member institutions.

Marketing Committee

The Committee decided to:

- upgrade the AAICU website with YouTube, Facebook and other formats;
- require all AAICU members to link home sites with the AAICU official site;
- align the Committee structure with ongoing projects on
 - 1) communications and advocacy
 - 2) quality assurance and accreditation
 - 3) institutional cooperation
 - 4) membership and bylaws.

Accreditation Committee

The Committee proposed:

1. Creation of a mentoring/coaching service for universities outside the US seeking or preparing for accreditation by US regional accreditors. The service will develop an informational packet to include a description of help available, contact information on individuals from AAICU member institutions who offer to be listed as mentors, and information on general issues of accreditation particularly relevant for institutions in foreign countries. The service would be available to AAICU associate members and to other institutions as yet unassociated with AAICU.
2. Preparation of a document that describes potentially problematic issues of applying US accreditation standards to institutions abroad. A draft circulated to attendees will be collaboratively refined during the next month. The final version will form part of the informational packet described above. With the addition of recommended guidelines on how to handle such problems, it will also be shared with the regional accrediting associations in the US.
3. The development of a presentation on US accreditation of institutions outside the US from the AAICU perspective. The focus of the presentation will be on potential problems in applying the standards and ways to address them; the audience will be the

members of CRAC at their September, 2009 meeting; the goal will be to expand understanding among the regional accreditors of such issues.

4. A role for AAICU in partnering with several or all of the US regional accreditors as they collectively define a more coordinated approach to accreditation outside of the US. Such a role might be as simple as prescreening interested campuses or as comprehensive as assuming responsibility for accreditation of foreign-based universities under the auspices of a regional association.
5. A more formal way to help AAICU affiliates as they proceed with their accreditation processes.

Deans' Academic and Inter-Institutional Cooperation Committee

The Committee re-affirmed the centrality of AAICU institutions in fostering and promoting American-style higher education throughout the world. To that end, it committed itself to developing and sharing best practices in institutional administration, faculty development, student learning, and promotion of research. The Committee anticipates further consultation about curricular development and student exchange within and among the AAICU campuses.

The Chief Academic Officers see their role as a link with AMICAL as a good working model. The CAOs will be looking into further strengthening the relationship and the development of AMICAL activities.

In between annual conferences, the Deans and Chief Academic Officers will share information on their respective institutions, as indicated in the minutes of the May 22-24 AAICU meeting in Yerevan.