
EU Jean Monnet Network in the US

Annual Coordination Meeting

January 28th and 29th, 2016 - Washington, D.C.



Co-Sponsored by the
EU Delegation in the US

In January 2016, United States beneficiaries of the European Commission's Jean Monnet Programme met in Washington D.C. to share best practices, foster cooperation and partnerships, and speak with representatives from the Commission and from the European Union Delegation to the United States. This meeting was possible thanks to the Getting to Know Europe partnership between the Delegation and the European Union Studies Association (EUSA).



Jean Monnet Projects, Centers, and Modules

After opening remarks from the EUSA Chair, Dr. Alasdair Young, the meeting began with a brief presentation from each institution on activities, accomplishments, and best practices in implementing their various Jean Monnet activities.

Florida International University

Markus Thiel and Christine Caly represented Florida International University (FIU) at the coordination meeting. Their program boasts contact persons throughout universities in Florida, thus spreading the benefit regionally. Florida International University is happy to be a gateway between Miami and the world, maintaining great relationships with six consulates in Miami. This ensures best practices in innovation and research, most notably when FIU managed to have a panel on Horizon 2020, Conferences in April. The team at FIU work hard at outreach, particularly with the local Italian community.

Georgia Institute of Technology

Alasdair Young represented Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) at the coordination meeting. Georgia Tech is halfway through their Jean Monnet Center of Excellence grant after ending their European Union Center of Excellence program in 2011. The Center has relationships with a

variety of faculty from business, history, modern languages, and many more departments. The Center is currently exploring matters of Transatlantic relations between the US and the EU. This has included talks at Emory University, a workshop on TTIP to be held at end of April, and a workshop on protecting privacy next year including professor Peter Swire. Georgia Tech has hosted ambassadors, including the European Union ambassador, His Excellency David O’Sullivan, and the French ambassador, His Excellency Gérard Araud. The Center has hosted events on the implications of the Climate Change summit, in which the French consular general participated. The Center has found that collaborating with others in this regard has worked well. They have worked with other centers, relevant groups in Atlanta, and the World Affairs Council. Recent goals for the Center have included improved dissemination through the website and social media, publishing papers more generally as well as the series dealing with triangular diplomacy. As of right now, all lectures have been posted to the website.



Alasdair Young - Georgia Tech

State University of New York - Cortland

Henry Steck represented Alexandru Balas, the Jean Monnet Module Coordinator at SUNY Cortland’s campus. SUNY Cortland houses an EU Atlantis mobility grant in partnership with several institutions. Other partnerships include an EU in Central New York project, along with Syracuse, Bingham, etc. The aim of this is to engage young scholars in teaching while researching the EU, institutionalize EU studies in colleges, and enhance the knowledge about EU for students who study abroad. This project provides interdisciplinary courses on the European Union in history, art history, economics, education, peace studies, sports management, and many more areas. Activities include Skype sessions with a colleague from Romania, an EU film series, a model EU simulation, and lectures

for students at the Council and Parliament in Brussels. Currently, they are discussing and beginning to plan EU Day, and they also hope to begin promoting faculty research through an on-campus research day, which would encourage scholars and students.



Henry Steck - SUNY Cortland

State University of New York - Buffalo



Deborah Reed-Danahay - SUNY Buffalo

Deborah Reed-Danahay is the Jean Monnet Chair at SUNY Buffalo who represented her institution in January. SUNY-Buffalo's European studies initiatives coordinate with Canada and western New York. Through these collaborations, there have been international conferences on Lisbon Treaty. In 2015 Deborah Reed-Danahay wanted to form a network on circulation and European Identity and started a whole new curriculum in university. At SUNY Buffalo, every freshman must take a freshman seminar, and Deborah Reed-Danahay has developed an EU-centered one which uses digication for e-portfolios and does projects on

different topics, such as the Scottish referendum. As a Jean Monnet Chair, she does a distinguished lecture each year. This year's lecture will be on citizenship, belonging in EU, and issues of migration.

She will be giving a talk in Buffalo on migration, partnering with the social work school on the Syrian refugee crisis.

University of California - Berkeley

Akasemi Newsome, Jeff Pennington, and Noga Wizansky represented University of California - Berkeley at the meeting. UC Berkeley houses the Institute of EU studies, which itself houses nine institutes including the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. The Jean Monnet Center's focus is on pioneering research of global EU challenges and harnessing Berkeley's knowledge of EU. This entails a three-pronged approach of education, global trade and investment, and EU management of global challenges. The Center works to prevent EU studies from becoming overly specialized by bringing in different departments. The institution is currently working on a newly created emphasis on the EU in doctoral studies. Furthermore, EU Studies scholars at Berkeley are now making use of the construction of word clouds or tag clouds by finding the most frequently used words to characterize and describe crises in different member states. Other areas of research include reconciling TTIP and other Free Trade Agreements, comparing Turkey to EU for best practices in migration, and whether EU institutions learn from the past or have a short-term approach. Other activities include a conference on a better way forward for Ukraine, a conference on African athletes and EU migration, and an undergraduate research conference at Claremont's Scripps College. During this particular conference, the top ten papers are published in a journal and some of the top participants receive a study tour to Brussels.



Jeffrey Pennington - UC Berkeley

University of Denver

Felicia Naranjo Martinez and Sarah Edwards represented the University of Denver. The Center was previously located at the University of Colorado-Boulder since 2008. The transition to Denver included a new website, a new logo, new partnerships in the community, and has provided several opportunities to cohost organizations who are internationally-minded, such as World Denver, World Affairs Council, etc. The Center is starting to work with the University Club and members are very keen to learn about Europe. The Mountain West partnership continues with Wyoming, Arizona State, and New Mexico. The Center also has connections with the board of the World Trade Center and World Denver, as well as the Office of Economic Development. The new Center has reached out and built a relationship with the University's EU Affairs student forum. A large amount of success in attracting and retaining speakers is achieved by building a speaker agenda throughout Denver so that visiting speakers are not just at the University. One partnership included a group called Inspiring Minds where local civic-minded young mothers have meetings while their kids are in school. This group recently had a collaboration with the Center on the challenges and concerns of the Syrian refugee crisis. Another notable partnership is the Air Force Academy, which resulted in a conference on cybersecurity held at the University Club. Recent events have included a renewable energy summit, a partnership with Office of Economic Development and International Trade to host a delegation from Spain, and sharing talent within the Jean Monnet community by hosting Jean Monnet Chair Milada Vachudova from the University of North Carolina.



Felicia Naranjo Martinez - University of Denver

University of Illinois

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was represented at the meeting by Maxime Larive, Sebnem Ozkan, and Neil Vander Most. University of Illinois has a European Union Center with a Title VI grant as well as Jean Monnet Center of Excellence and Getting to Know Europe grants. Current focus areas include strengthening Transatlantic trust, TTIP, economics and finance, and the movement of people through migration. The Center has their own Master's in EU studies, which was one of the first in the country. While the Center does not have specific EU faculty, there are over 120 affiliated faculty. There is an executive committee to help with implementation of the Center and Graduate Assistants funded through the Title VI grant. Notable courses include courses on Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, research activities on EU politics and policy, Common Agricultural Policy, Islam and Europe, and many others. Along with the MA in EU studies there is also a graduate minor and a five year BA/MA program.



Maxime Larive - University of Illinois

University of Miami

Melanie Goergmaier represented Jean Monnet Chair Joaquín Roy at the meeting. Miami has been awarded several grants, including a grant for a new building, a new EU Fellow doing comparative research on the US legislative system, and funding for a conference on TTIP resulting in a published book. University of Miami aims to have a “triangle” connection among Latin America, US, and the EU, which might be consequential for future trade agreements. The location is ideal for this type of connection, and many courses have a triangular (Atlantic community) connection. They currently offer

internships focusing on individualized research for course credit. Miami's EU studies website is home to an extensive portfolio of work as well as a bibliography of publications.



Melanie Goergmaier - University of Miami

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill



Katie Linder - UNC Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina was represented by two representatives from their Center, John Stephens and Katie Linder, as well as Jean Monnet Chair Milada Vachudova. Dr. Vachudova will be teaching four courses on EU studies over the lifetime of the grant. She is currently leading a conference for the Center. As a Center, they are working to improve their Transatlantic Master's degree. They have grants which allow them to bring practitioners over from Europe. Cooperating with other centers is also a large priority. EU Today is a course taken by senior undergraduates and Transatlantic Master's students. This is a one credit class - team

taught by Dr. Stephens, Dr. Vachudova, and a visiting scholar - to discuss relevant topics in EU Studies. They are focused on building a community of EU students and helping students establish a chapter of

European Horizons. Students have attended the European Horizons' European Student Conference and the center is putting on seven conferences of their own over the lifetime of the grant. They aim to continue bringing different departments together, enhancing social media, and adding a virtual platform of academic documents.

University of Pittsburgh



Allyson Delnore and Steve Lund - University of Pittsburgh

Allyson Delnore and Steve Lund represented the University of Pittsburgh at the meeting. The European Studies Center at the University of Pittsburgh is home to the Pittsburgh Papers on the European Union, as well as the popular Conversations on Europe (CoE). CoE is a series of policy-oriented videoconferences on different wicked problems, such as the recent one on climate change and sustainability. These videoconferences bring in experts, stream them for people to attend the session remotely, record the talks, and add them to YouTube. The Center is currently working to redesign a course in the EU certificate program and has nearly received approval for

a new certificate in Transatlantic Studies. They are working to create study guides at the college level, from which students could answer questions for extra credit. These can be applicable to K-12 students (specifically 9-12). Yearly endeavors include the Graduate Student Conference on the EU, undergraduate model EU, and high school model EU. The ESC is beginning to brand the EU courses with practical application for students seeking to acquire skills for the job market. The K-12 offerings have greatly increased at the University of Pittsburgh. This includes an upcoming fully funded study tour to Brussels in June for K-12 teachers and faculty from community colleges and minority serving institutions. The Center is also working to create a new PhD in European Cultural Studies.

University of Washington

James Caporaso represented University of Washington, which was one of the first European Union Centers of Excellence. The Center is currently in the midst of welcoming new faculty and staff. Enrollment for EU studies courses has declined since the start of the financial crisis. However, courses continue to be offered, students continue to take them, and graduate students have asked for more. University of Washington hosts the West Coast Undergraduate Model EU in February. This year the topics will include TTIP and the refugee crisis. There is also a great opportunity for graduate students with the Graduate Student Workshop. This takes place in late spring and brings in PhD students to work for two days and discuss their dissertations. Faculty and other graduate students critique the work. There are also research grants for students to do summer research. The head of the Taiwanese national Jean Monnet Network from National University of Taiwan came through this semester with ideas about things to do in cooperation with the University of Washington.



James Caporaso - University of Washington

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Nils Ringe and Elizabeth Covington represented the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The University is home to a Title VI National Resource Center and a Center for German and European Studies. With respect to the Jean Monnet Programme, Madison has found success in the form of Chair, Center, Project, and Module grants. Areas of specialty include studies of legislative networks inside European Parliament, preliminary networks of language multilingualism, the political economy of the European Union, and comparative regional integration focusing on the EU. Recently, the Center has hosted Joseph Jupille, George Ross, and Charles Wyplosz. Regarding opportunities for students,

the Center helps to coordinate teams to send to Model EUs throughout the nation, sponsors a chapter of the European Horizons think tank, and provides graduate support in the form of fully funded Research Assistantships. The Center has found success in coordinating with other departments throughout the university as well as in the community. Recent examples of partnerships include the African Studies program in an event on migration, the American Council on Germany Center, the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, and the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations.



Elizabeth Covington - UW Madison

Feedback

We would like to everyone who gave us feedback on the meeting. Here is a summary of some of the more pertinent points from the feedback we received:

- With a weighted average of 3.25 out of 5, “materials provided” was rated the most favorable aspect of the meeting. We would like to thank all of the Centers, the Commission, and the Delegation for bringing relevant material to distribute.
- At 2.50 out of 5, “time of year” was the most unfavorable aspect of the meeting. We will be working with the Network over the course of the year to assess ways to alleviate this concern.
- Having representatives from Brussels consistently appeared in the comments as one of the most positive and crucial parts of the meeting. Thus, we intend to work with the Delegation to continue this tradition.
- A lunch-to-lunch meeting was generally preferred to a proposed one-day meeting.
- Based on the feedback, in future meetings we hope to provide more time for networking.

Acknowledgements



We would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting as well as everyone within the network who continues to strive to expand the study of Europe in the United States. We would especially like to acknowledge our appreciation to His Excellency David O’Sullivan for taking the time to speak with our colleagues. EUSA would also like to extend a special thank you to everyone who attended from the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Commission, the European External Action Service, and the Partnership Unit of the European Commission Service for Foreign Policy Instruments. Without support from the Erasmus+ Programme and our generous Getting to Know Europe Grant, this meeting would not have been possible.



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