Global Steering Committee Minutes  
February 28, 2013  
2:00 – 3:30 Alumni Board Room  

Members Present:  David Abedon, Sigrid Berka, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Shaw Chen, Alicia Curtin, Haibo He, Maureen Moakley, Kat Quina, Navindra Seeram, Nancy Stricklin, Nasser Zawia
Members Not Present:  Jenny Audette, Tom Boving, Bo Gillie, Kristin Johnson, Ric McIntyre, Manbir Sodhi

1)  **Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission visit** - Nasser presented about an upcoming visit from a senior level delegation from the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM). Currently 90,000 Saudi students are studying in the US on fully funded Saudi government scholarships. URI has a goal of not only bringing more Saudi undergraduate and graduate students to study here, but also to build connections to establish future partnerships. The visitors include the director and senior advisors from the Medical and Health Sciences area of SACM. Meetings with deans and key faculty at URI will be arranged.

2)  **Agents** - Nancy updated the group on the progress of URI working with agents for international recruitment. Per meetings with Purchasing and Budget, she has the go ahead to start the process. These Educational Service providers will need to fill out an application, which will be reviewed based upon specific criteria. The process of selection must be transparent and documented. Nancy will draft an application, list of criteria and contract. The contract will need to be reviewed by our legal counsel, Lou Saccoccio. Goal is to have this drafted by the end of spring break for review.

3)  **Global Studies Minor** – This topic of discussion was postponed until the next meeting. A few members of the subcommittee were not able to attend this meeting.

4)  **Global Web Update** – The goal is to launch this in April. Nancy drafted a questionnaire that faculty would complete. This information will become part of a database, with the eventual plan to have a world map with live “dots” showing the array of global activities taking place. The group provided input about the questionnaire. Nancy will follow up with the Communications office, and they will put this onto a web format, so that it can be completed on-line. The request to the faculty to complete the questionnaire will be sent by Nancy to the Deans of each college. This gives the Deans the opportunity to acknowledge the global work of their faculty and encourage them to take part in this initiative.

There was an active discussion about the List of Courses with a global theme for the website. Dania worked on this and recently had a student look at the existing list (from about 3 years ago) and rate them regarding their global nature. This led to an overall discussion of the definition of “global”. Nancy provided a document that referred to how the word “global” has
been used at URI by the Academic Plan Review Committee, the committee working on a new General Education curriculum, The Academic Plan, and the President’s Transformational Goals. It was decided by the group that we need to define “global” and use the definition moving forward. It was agreed that a definition of “global” by the Global Steering Committee would carry some weight. It was also suggested that once we came up with a definition, this could be sent to all of the department chairs, and they could provide a list of their courses that fit the description. The committee members felt that we could launch the website without the list of courses being ready. That page could be “under construction” if necessary.

There was much discussion about how to come up with the definition. It was suggested not to use the Gen Ed curriculum definition as it stands, but to use it as a base for the committee to edit and expand upon. (This will help as we move toward our discussion of what a Global Minor should include.)

5) David Abedon will do his presentation on “Design for Development” at the beginning of our next meeting. He announced that he has an engineering professor from Cooper Union coming to URI in April. He will send out an email of invitation to the committee to meet with the professor and/or to have the professor meet with students.

Follow Up:

1) Nancy will send out a working definition of “global” to the committee and request input and feedback. This will be compiled into a draft to be discussed at the next meeting.

2) The Communications office working on the Global Website will create the on-line draft of the questionnaire. Nancy will forward to the committee for input and then communicate with the Deans.