Global Steering Committee (GSC) Minutes
February 2, 2017
1:30pm – 3pm

Members present: David Abedon, Laura Beauvais, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Shaw Chen, Linda Foley-Vinay, Norbert Hedderich, Kristin Johnson, Kathleen Maher, Princess Metuge, Rosaria Pisa, Nancy Stricklin, Nasser Zawia
Members Not Present: Jenny Audette, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Bo Gillie, Bill Gordon, Haibo He, Diane Martins, Maureen Moakley, Navindra Seeram

Dr. Kathy Collins, Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Collins was the invited speaker to the Global Steering Committee. She joined the URI community in July 2016. Her responsibilities at URI include supervision of Housing, Dining, Campus Recreational Services, Health Services, Talent Development and a few other areas. She gave an overview of her past experiences, particularly as they relate to international students. In her previous institutions, most recently at Michigan State University, which has a large number of international students, she was responsible for housing and dining and has worked to improve opportunities for the international students. In addition, she worked to improve the cultural competency of the staff. Also, she has experience helping a new Saudi Arabian university set up their housing/dining facilities.

Many projects are in the horizon in her area. These include:

- Construction of a new residence hall with 4 and 6 bedroom apartments, which will house undergraduate and graduate students.
- Expansion of library coffee/tea cart to include better coffee and loose-leaf tea.
- Expansion of South County Bike Path onto URI campus
- Expansion and renovation of Memorial Union. Will be done in phases. Focus will be on food/catering and then remodel accordingly. (A Request for Proposal will be sent out in the near future for suggestions for a site feasibility study.) Improve “Main Street” in lower level of Union.

Suggestions to Dr. Collins from Global Steering Committee members included:

- Expand options for graduate student housing. Most graduate students in Grad Village are international students and their options are limited. Long waitlists for rooms in grad village occur each semester. Include furniture in remodeled apartments.
- Open mail room in Union on weekend before beginning of semester. International students often have items mailed and they cannot retrieve them on the weekend.
- Sell SIM cards for phones in the URI Bookstore. Helpful for international students.
- Identify location in Union for an International Lounge, which would encourage interaction between international and domestic students.
Executive Order - President Trump
The Committee spent considerable time discussing the Executive Order banning visitors to the US from 7 targeted countries. Dr. Collins remained for this discussion.

Comments and suggestions:

- Faculty are questioning whether they can offer a graduate assistantship to a student from one of these 7 countries, or even should they offer admission.
- The US could see a significant reduction in international student enrollment, similar to after 9/11, as a result of this Order.
- Faculty and students need to know where to go for guidance and resources.
- Information about the Order should be on the Office of International Students and Scholars website. (*This information is now available.*)
- Have a general Information Session for international students to be able to ask questions and get support. (*Another group on campus was formed and is following up with this topic. Sigrid Berka and Laura Beauvais were going to a meeting and would bring this suggestion.*)
- Reach out to international partner universities to ensure that URI is welcoming. Perhaps send them President Dooley’s letter.
- There needs to be a united effort on campus to deal with the ramifications of this Order.

Cambridge Education Group – ONCAMPUS RI
The Director of ONCAMPUS RI, Linda Foley-Vinay, is a new member of our Global Steering Committee. She briefly presented to the committee on the status of the Pathway Program. The office is now open (Taft Hall room 101 and 102). Two staff members have been hired, a Student Support Coordinator and an English teacher. The first cohort of international students arrived in January. They came to URI a week before classes began for an orientation. They live in URI housing at 8 Fraternity Circle and they eat in the dining halls. They are covered by URI health insurance and take part in activities. They are taking 12-15 credits of academic work, all URI courses taught by URI faculty. Except for math, all of the sections are limited to ONCAMPUS RI students. There are currently 6 students in the program. A new intake in May and then September should be considerably larger. Linda emphasized that the URI community has been extraordinarily welcoming and supportive to her, her staff and the students.

Study Abroad Overview
Michael Foster, International Education Advisor, represented the Office of International Education to give an overview of the enrollment of URI students in study abroad. He provided a 13-page comprehensive handout with enrollment statistics. (*Copies are available for members who did not attend the meeting.*) After the thorough presentation, it was suggested by the Committee that future requests for data will be very specific. For example, the data per college
is available and Michael gave an excellent example from the College of Business. This type of data, per college, could be useful for the Deans in each college. A follow-up with Michael will take place with targeted data requests.