Karen de Bruin – Presentation on Proposed School of Languages, Culture and Global Studies
A proposal for a School of Languages and Culture was selected at the Academic Summit as one of four new, innovative ideas to receive seed funding for exploration. Karen de Bruin, Associate Professor of French, is leading this initiative. She presented the idea to the committee and requested input. A comprehensive discussion took place. Following are the key questions and comments that were the focus of the discussion:

Is this across all colleges or housed in one college?

What makes a School? Maybe look at Harrington School for guidance and suggestions.

School might be an issue. Maybe consider Institute or Center. Maybe a Center for Global Studies housed under the Provost’s Office.

Formal process about creating Centers and Institutes can be challenging. Is it really what the proposal is looking for?

Need $$ - ask new Foundation President to get involved.

Administrative unit is needed to serve as an umbrella, under which all things global would be housed.

Global Minor/major could be part of this.

Create tracks for internationalization of all majors and minors at URI.

Like idea of anchoring language/culture prior to an international travel trip for students.

Suggestion of removing “language” from the title because it would get more support.
Proposal’s main focus is on language learning and needs to stay front and center. Language learning should not be referred to as an afterthought.

Think strategically – other colleges need to see this as an important discipline.

Use IEP as a model – show how other majors can do the same, tying languages into the program.

What is the main idea or purpose? To develop a Global Institute as an administrative unit? Or is promoting languages the main purpose?

Heightening the language component might be more strategically difficult to move forward.

Should the School of Languages and Cultures be in a College, such as Arts and Sciences? Might be easier to move forward through URI’s bureaucracy.

Get funding for a School.

If you want to serve all colleges, it should be a center, such as Global Institute. (Example of how Honors serves all colleges and is a successful model.)

Karen de Bruin and Nancy Stricklin are working together to further this initiative. A group of faculty and staff from the Academic Summit, who were supportive of this concept, are part of the team that will continue working on this proposal.

**Comprehensive Internationalization Plan Prioritized Action Update**

1) Formal Risk Management Policy
   Dania gave a summary of the meetings that are already taking place regarding the development of a formal risk management policy. Included in the meetings are the Vice President of Finance, the Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs, Risk Manager, Health Services, Campus Security, and Office of International Education. The group is developing a draft. Dania will bring this to the Global Steering Committee for input when it is ready for review.

2) Global Studies Minor
   Nancy is meeting with Ric McIntyre and Brett Anderson in Economics, who are interested in working on moving forward with this plan that was developed two years ago. A follow up meeting with the interested members of the Global Steering Committee will take place at the end of April, early May. (Bill Gordon, Tom Boving, Dave Abedon).
3) International Partnerships – Core Review Team
Laura Beauvais, Dania Brandford-Calvo and Nancy Stricklin have begun to meet monthly to discuss proposed MOU’s and partnership development. The purpose of this team is to keep everyone informed of what types of engagements are occurring or being considered in different countries. A suggestion was made to require that all requests for an MOU go before a review “board” or group.

4) International Student Support Coordinator
A request for this new position has been made for the upcoming fiscal year. The position would be housed in the Office of International Education. The committee was emailed a few examples of job descriptions of similar types. There was not enough time in the meeting to discuss these details. It will be on the next meeting’s agenda.

Peace Corp Prep Program
The program officially launched and there has been significant press about it. It was in the Providence Journal, the Providence Business News, and the websites of a few local television stations. Professor Mike Rice, a former Peace Corps volunteer, was on the Dan York Show a few weeks ago being interviewed about the program. He was joined by Neil Ross, a volunteer alumni of URI and a former Peace corps volunteer. A booth in the Union was staffed to hand out information. At least 12 students have signed up so far. Information will also be handed out at the three Welcome Days for new students in April.

Fulbright
Nancy confirmed that on April 1 there is a Fulbright officer coming to campus to conduct individual interviews with faculty and hold a workshop. At least 27 faculty have signed up and all 11 slots for interviews have been filled.

Turkey
It was announced that a group was going to meet to discuss a proposal from a university in Turkey, as URI does not have formal agreements there. However, since this Global Steering Committee meeting, it has been decided that the interest in another institution in Turkey is preferable. This initiative is currently on hold.

Fund for International Students in Economic Hardship
A brief discussion took place regarding the situation of some students from particular countries (ex. Nigeria), where the devaluation of the dollar is causing URI students to have to go home. Question arose of whether there might be a hardship or emergency fund that could be created, with specific parameters. The GSC can discuss this further.