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

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

URI Fulbright Student Program
Update was presented by Kathleen Maher.  This year URI has 12 applicants.  Six made the first cut to become semi-finalists.  140 countries participate in the program.  Some require interviews, but not all.  A goal is to try to double the number of applicants next academic year.  Kathleen’s office has conducted many methods of outreach, including Information Sessions.  Attached to the minutes is a flyer that Committee members can distribute to interested students.  Competitive students for the English Teaching Assistant Fulbright often have skill in a second language and/or some hands-on experience teaching/working in schools.

Immigration Working Group
As a result of the initial Executive Order by President Trump, URI recognized the need to have a united effort on campus to deal with the ramifications.  An ad hoc group, currently titled the Immigration Working Group, was formed.  They have met four times.  Members include representatives from Campus Security, Legal Office, Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), Admissions, Communications, Provost’s Office, Diversity Office, President’s Office, Office of Student Affairs and others.  An announcement of a breakfast meeting with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse on March 6th was made.  Dania Brandford-Calvo was representing the OISS at this event.  A list of FAQ’s regarding the Executive Order is being developed by Linda Acciardo of Communications Office, with input from other offices, including OISS.  There will be a link to this on the URI website when it is completed. This group will continue to meet as needed.

International Undergraduate Enrollment
Bo Gillie from International Admission Office presented on the enrollment over the past three years.  He handed out a chart with graphs of URI’s 3-year comparative data for 2014, 2015, 2016.  In addition, the committee was given a comprehensive chart of URI student enrollment by country of origin.  This data pertained only to undergraduate students.  Currently, the top seven countries of origin for URI undergraduates in order from highest are China, Korea, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Canada, and Kuwait.  The yield of transfer applicants is strong, due to a
2+2 program with ZUEL University in China that Shaw Chen developed in the College of Business. They are bringing approximately 25 students per year from China into the Finance program.

Pakistan stands out as a country that URI gets a significant number of applications from, and it was explained that there is a strong relationship between the college counseling office at an international school in Pakistan and URI’s international admission office. This results in sustained number of applicants to URI. It illustrates how critical relationship development is to strong enrollment of international undergraduate students.

Tom Boving travels to India often and requested information/materials that he could bring to faculty and students with whom he interacts while there. All committee members are encouraged to contact Bo Gillie if/when they are traveling and want information to bring with them.

Saudi Arabia has significantly reduced the government scholarship amounts they had been awarding, therefore there is a drop in Saudi numbers of students.

Copies of the charts and handouts are available by contacting Bo Gillie.

**Academic Summit Recommendations**
At the January 2017 Academic Summit, there was a break-out group focused on global initiatives. Faculty were asked to recommend new, innovative ideas on the topic. A summary of these ideas was handed out to the Committee members. Discussion of the first idea, conducting a *Best Practices in Internationalizing the Curriculum Conference*, took place. It was proposed that this could be considered for June 2017; however, further details and discussion need to take place. It was decided that this topic, and the others on the list of recommendations, would be postponed until the April Global Steering Committee meeting.

**Flynn International Study Abroad Scholarship**
A new application is now available for the Flynn International Study Abroad Scholarship. ([http://web.uri.edu/international/flynnscholarship/](http://web.uri.edu/international/flynnscholarship/))
Tom Hospod from the Office of International Education and Kathleen Maher worked together to create the new application. Members of the Committee are encouraged to share with their students. The deadline is April 14, 2017.

**Global Website**
A subcommittee has met on this topic and plans for updating and improving the URI global website are in place for summer, after commencement. John Pennypacker from Communications, Manager of Web Communications, has already posted a map on the 125th Anniversary website, which identifies faculty work around the world. One area of focus for the
summer will be to strategize on how to promote and expand this to more faculty. Nancy Stricklin, Jenny Audette and Diane Martins will be working together. Additional Committee members are welcome to join the working group.

**Global Course List**
There is a subcommittee working on creating this list, which will eventually be posted to the global website. Shaw Chen, Dania Brandford-Calvo and David Abedon are working on this.

**International Studies and Diplomacy Program**
This new program is still in the early stages of approval. It is a dual-degree program, which includes a Bachelor’s in International Studies and a Bachelor’s in a language. Study abroad is required. It is interdisciplinary and has been developed by a team of faculty from Economics and Political Science. Nancy Stricklin and Kathleen Maher have worked closely with this team. The goal is to begin the program in fall 2018.

**Distinguished International Visiting Scholars**
Laura Beauvais gave the committee an update on the spring 2017 Visiting Scholars. A scholar from the Universidad Cienfuegos, Cuba came to URI in late February. The second scholar, from Afghanistan, was not able to get a visa for this semester. She will try to travel to URI in the fall. Therefore, there might be some funding available for use this spring semester. A request for proposals for fall 2017 and spring 2018 will go out in the next month to all faculty.