Global Steering Committee (GSC) Minutes
November 16, 2017
1:30pm – 3pm

**Members present:** David Abedon, Jenny Audette, Laura Beauvais, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Bill Gordon, Norbert Hedderich, Tom Hospod, Kristin Johnson, Kathleen Maher, Diane Martins, Rosaria Pisa, Karen Sherman, and Nancy Stricklin

**Members Not Present:** Shaw Chen, Linda Foley-Vinay, Bo Gillie, Haibo He, Princess Metuge, Navindra Seeram, Elin Torell, Nasser Zawia

**Selection of Strategies and Actions from Academic Plan**
The committee members were given the list of previously selected strategies and actions that had been requested in early fall. Each member selected their top two actions as priorities to work on during the spring semester.

The top strategy and action prioritized by the committee is:

**Strategy 5** – Expand support structures and efforts to increase numbers of domestic students engaging in an international education experiences, and successfully recruit, enroll, and retain international students

**Action Step:** Provide comprehensive support and inclusion for enrolled international graduate and undergraduate students through advising, peer support and programs at the University and College levels, such as peer ambassadors and expanded housing options.

The next two strategies and actions selected by the committee are:

**Strategy 5**

**Action Step:** Effectively integrate study abroad into the curriculum by engaging advisors to communicate opportunities to students, offer cross-cultural course options during and after study abroad experiences, and provide effective preparation for global learning by introducing cross-cultural course options delivered prior to study abroad

**Strategy 1** - Articulate and prioritize internationalization of institution-wide strategic plans and faculty hires

**Action Step:** Establish global committees and/or task forces within each college and division to monitor and assess progress of internationalization plans, including benchmarking with similar units at other institutions

At the first meeting of the spring semester, the committee will develop a plan to move forward with the actions above.
Update from Vice Provost on Global Leadership at URI
Laura Beauvais gave the committee an update on the proposed position of Vice Provost for Global Affairs. It has been approved at all levels at URI and also at the level of the Post-Secondary Council in Providence. Laura will chair the search. A search committee has been identified and the first meeting of the committee will take place before the end of December. The position will then be posted, with plans to begin the interview process by the end of February/early March. Also, the International Center is going to be evaluated for physical improvements in the near future. More details will be given after the walk-through to determine the types of upgrades needed.

Web Content Strategy Brief
During the Global Steering Committee meeting on October 19th colleagues from URI’s Communication and Marketing team conducted an exercise to get recommendations, comments and suggestions from the GSC members, as a first step in a major update of URI’s global website. They developed a Strategy Brief, which was sent to the GSC members prior to the November meeting. GSC members were asked for feedback, after which the web staff will begin to build an information architecture and some wireframes of prominent pages. They will share this at a future GSC meeting.

Feedback from GSC on the brief:

Under “Measurable/Quantitative”

- Increase international student applications and enrollment.
- Developing more international partnerships is not a goal. Rather, the goal is to clearly articulate the process for faculty and deans.
- Reducing routine phone calls is a goal.

Under “Qualitative”

- Clarify whether foreign language is, in fact, the number one major at URI.

Under “Target Audiences”

- Faculty/Staff

Under “Current undergraduate/graduate international students”

- It is important for these students to continue to feel welcomed and valued (like the prospective students), so add that message here.

Under Audience 2: Parents

- Add that URI is a safe place to study and live.
Under Audience 4: Alumni/Donors

- Show vignettes of how other donors have designated their gifts to global funds/opportunities for students and illustrate how the students have used these funds.

Additional general comments:

- Highlight service opportunities abroad.
- Our message should indicate that URI is looking for the best and brightest students – highlight student achievements globally to inform prospective students about some of URI’s high achievers.
- Students often begin the review of a website by looking up a major. Therefore, each individual college site should have its own global information, as well as a link to other globally related sites.
- The Office of International Education needs to use this site as a daily tool. It is critical for their office to be actively engaged in the development of a new site. They will need to have resources to keep it updated.
- Even though we are a small, beautiful place, it is important to integrate the message that students have opportunities “beyond” Kingston.

**Boren Scholarship Update**
Kathleen Maher gave an overview of funding opportunities for students to study less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to US interests. Currently, URI has four students on Boren scholarships studying in China, Jordan, Morocco and Mozambique. There is an Information Session on November 30th at 4:00 in Lippitt 401 for students to learn more. (See flyer for distribution attached to email.)

**RISE Germany Research Opportunities**
Sigrid Berka informed the committee of research opportunities in Germany in the field of science and engineering. Deadline for application is December 15, 2017. (See flyer attached for distribution.)

**Nakatani RIES Fellowship for US Students in Japan**
Sigrid Berka informed the committee of research opportunities in Japan in the field of science and engineering. Deadline for application is January 16, 2018. (See flyer attached for distribution.)

**20th Annual Colloquium on International Engineering Program**
Sigrid Berka provided a summary of the recent IEP colloquium at Northern Arizona University. NAU developed an IEP program based upon URI’s model years ago. They have branched out now to include many other majors (not just engineering or business) and it has been extremely successful. It was noted that this could be a topic of further exploration regarding URI’s existing programs.

**J-Term Courses**
The committee had an informal discussion of upcoming J-term course involvement. There was some discussion that more J-term courses had been cancelled this year, due to lower enrollment. There was not time to explore this further. It was suggested that after the 2018 J-term is over, data should be collected and discussion of future enrollment issues could be reviewed.