Global Steering Committee Minutes  
September 18, 2014  
1pm – 3pm  
Alumni Center Boardroom

Members present:  David Abedon, Jenny Audette, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Shaw Chen, Donna Schwartz-Barrett (for Alicia Curtin), Bo Gillie, Haibo He, Norbert Hedderich, Kristin Johnson, Sarah Lopolito, Maureen Moakley, Kathleen Maher, Kat Quina, Navindra Seeram, Nancy Stricklin  
Members Not Present:  Dania Brandford-Calvo, Yang Shen, Nasser Zawia  
Notes:  Lou Ann Diomandes

Nancy Stricklin announced that Norbert Hedderich has agreed to Co-Chair and opened the meeting.

1. Welcome and update of URI’s Globalization agenda – Provost Don DeHayes

Provost welcomed Norbert Hedderich as new co-chair and expressed that it was always the intent when this Global Steering Committee was created. He said it is critical to have the language department part of this group and thank you to all for your roles going forward. The academic plan was implemented four years ago, there is one year left. When we started we had not done a lot as an institution with recruitment of international students; this group has made much progress. Thank you. We have had an approximate 30% growth in international grad students but this is not the only measure. The campus is more in tuned to a global society, we prepare food in the dining halls, flags at the Memorial Union; this creates a fabric to the global agenda. Many faculty and departments are participating. The number of international partnerships have doubled or even tripled. Gave example of our relationship with the Government of Indonesia and several higher education institutions, showing our university presence. Last year we pushed forward with the J-Term and will be advancing the upcoming J-Term with 21 travel classes, of which 14 or 15 are International. Our goal on the travel classes is to break even, it’s not necessarily a revenue stream. Travel classes are an important enrichment for our students and can’t happen during the regular academic year. We now have a Teaching Assistant fluent in Arabic, assisting with our growing number of students studying Arabic. The Distinguished International Visiting Scholars program, which started 3-4 years ago, has created outstanding opportunities for campus community to learn and gain global perspective. Much of this would not have happened without this steering committee.

Question by Kat Quina: There is a Providence group of first generation immigrants that are living in poverty who have been established lawyers, etc. in their own country but who are janitors here and working below their level. This group of people are not recognized in our international numbers and are not identified anywhere. They don’t neatly fall into a category. Can we bring them more centrally into the mission? They have completed college in their home country but the language barrier holds them back. They almost need a pre-pre college here. Answer: They need help in the transitioning and language area. A place to start would be the English / Language Dept. but they may not have the resources. Lobbying efforts should take place, ESL training is not that expensive and this may be good for the City of Providence because it’s a significant number in their population. That would be an interesting first step. Nancy Stricklin suggested this committee could assist in the planning process and Kat agreed.

2. Identification of strategic priorities for URI’s Global Agenda – Ann Morrissey

- In the context of the whole University we will look at a 1-3 year horizon to further internationalize the University.
- Fresh Look: Look at what has transpired so far and what are some key initiatives moving this Agenda and Academic Plan forward.
- Our perspectives and national trends – Review of article.
- What are the most important initiatives that URI could do?
- Using an affinity exercise the committee addressed the following question:
What are the most important initiatives in which URI could engage over the next 3 years that would significantly help to internationalize/globalize the University?

Seven Categories emerged:

1- Study Abroad / Internships
   - Development of more opportunities for project work abroad. i.e. both service learning and research options.
   - Strengthen the staff resources of the Study Abroad and Scholarship Offices.
   - Support for student and faculty presentations at conferences abroad.
   - Opportunities to participate in global development internships here in Rhode Island (e.g. D. Abedon’s program)

2- Student Support: (see below)

3- Faculty Support and Engagement: (see below)

4- Administration/Admission
   - Be more flexible like the TOEFL score requirements for graduate students in order not to lose talented international students. They can be sent to ACE summer prep if they need to catch up on a skill.
   - Alternative to the Common Application for International student admission (undergrad).
   - Housing for short-term visitors to URI. (students, faculty, etc.)
   - Strategically recruit international students, especially undergraduates, such as through agents.

5- Curriculum:
   - Develop courses for Gen Ed requirement on global responsibility.
   - Faculty development to help internationalize the curriculum.
   - Better use of technology to communicate/connect with/teach internationally.
   - Experiential programs that include global dimension.
   - Build global requirement into course of study.
   - Integrate more service learning into international education programs (use some of the current programs as model)
   - Make study or internship or experimental learning a mandatory requirement for a URI Bachelor’s Degree throughout all disciplines.
   - Develop the Global Studies minor and eventually major.
   - An Undergrad and Graduate program or major in International Development/GLOBAL Studies.

6- Global Partnerships: (see below)

7- Communication/Assessment:
   - Assessment of our efforts – What is working? What is not working? How can we improve?
   - Improve communication to campus community about international initiatives. (Ex: more work on website).
   - Research to explore various aspects of our initiatives.
   - Global publicity of URI to be enhanced. Communication of faculty travel, conferences, social media network, newspapers, agent, etc. This will help with recruitment.
   - Document all outgoing internationalized activities at URI so we have a complete overview.

Also, one stand-alone item we had was Lobbying: Leverage political connections at all levels to stir (Gov.) funding for international initiatives to URI.
The committee then selected three topics as Prioritized Areas and divided into three groups to develop goal statements and strategies.

Goal/Statement 1:

**Student Support:** Academic, Social & Financial Support for both domestic & international students.

Key Strategies:

1. Improve support for all international students and post-docs on campus. (e.g. advisors attuned to the needs of international students, peer mentoring, continued attention to English language needs, including academic writing)
2. Create opportunities for meaningful interaction between domestic and international students on campus. (e.g. sponsoring lunchtime talks with pizza where international students talk about their countries, a buddy/mentor system where a domestic student in the same class periodically meets with the international student)
3. Promote all types of international activities for domestic students, with special focus on securing funding. (e.g. more staff for the Study Abroad and Scholarship offices,)
4. Improve services and retention measures for students who are first generation immigrants. (e.g. advising)

Questions/Comments/Concerns/Feedback: More specialized advisors needed and graduate student tutors. Would it be possible to train URI students? Work with various groups who could possibly get credit?

Goal/Statement 2:

**Faculty Support and Engagement:** (statement will be confirmed at next meeting)

Key Strategies:

1. Training.
2. Coordinate Information.
3. Credit for Faculty (P&T) & Staff (Merit i.e. Performance Review).

Questions/Comments/Concerns/Feedback: Faculty could see what everyone is doing and maybe make further connections. The mission would be a clear set of where you go for what, i.e. central clearinghouse.

Goal/Statement 3:

**International Partnerships:** To create a cohesive strategy in developing, assessing and approving international partnerships.

Key Strategies:

1. Identify strategic areas of the world which are a good match for URI to engage with.
2. Streamline the internal process of creating, reviewing and approving all international partnership agreements and communicate to campus community.

Questions/Comments/Concerns/Feedback: What are the kinds of relationships that don't always require a formal agreement? The committee would like to know when formal agreements are needed.

Wrap Up and Next Steps – Reactions - Ann Morrissey

1. Committee decided to continue this strategic planning activity at the next meeting
2. Divide into sub-groups again to develop the HOW.
3. Decide on what you want to advance.
4. Identify specific Action Steps for each of the goals.