Global Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2012
1:00 – 2:30 PM – Green Hall Great Room

Members Present:  David Abedon, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Shaw Chen, Bo Gillie, Haibo He, Kristin Johnson, Ric McIntyre, Maureen Moakley, Navindra Seeram, Manbir Sodhi, Nancy Stricklin, Nasser Zawia
Members Not Present:  Jenny Audette, Mary Cloud, Rainer Lohmann, Kat Quina
Minutes:  Chelsey Hawes

1) Provost DeHayes gave a general overview of the history of the Global Task Force and how the Global Steering Committee was established. He is looking for the Steering Committee to prioritize the Global Task Force recommendations, identify key working areas and begin implementation. Some of the areas he referred to include strategic development of MOU’s, recruitment of international students and the use of third party agents, and retention of international students. He mentioned that one of the recommendations of the Global Task Force that has already been implemented is the new ESL program on campus through A.C.E. which offers conditional admission. It is a pilot program this spring. He expressed his appreciation to the members for their commitment to the global initiatives at URI.

2) Introduction of Member of the Committee

3) Explanation that the Global Education page on the Provost’s website http://www.uri.edu/provost/planning/globaled.html, will be the home of communication for the committee. It will include the charge of the committee, the list of members, supporting documents (Global Task Force Report, JCAP report, Ad Hoc Global Task Force Report and Consultant’s Report), and minutes.

4) Discussion occurred on the Draft of six Key Areas of Focus, taken from the supporting documents. Nancy Stricklin created this draft and opened discussion regarding additions, observations, and changes. Comments and suggestions included:

   a. To add an area regarding the recruitment of Fulbright scholars to URI and to include establishing relationships with both US and other government organizations to enhance URI’s attraction to international students, scholars and faculty. Nasser Zawia mentioned that he is the key contact for graduate Fulbright inquiries.

   b. That it is important to emphasize that we are not just focusing on students, but to keep in mind that international efforts or planning has to do with students, faculty and scholars.

   c. To address the infrastructure of the University to see how the positions fit together on an organizational chart to see the connections across the campus.

   d. That there currently is no “policy” on campus for internationalization
e. The need to know exactly what the procedures are for faculty taking students abroad in an emergency situation. “If Tom is held hostage in Kenya, what does he do?” Dania explained that her office does have emergency procedures/insurance in place and she is working on communicating that via the Office of International Education/Office of International Students and Scholars website.

f. MOU/Partnerships are a very important area of immediate focus, due to the increasing number of requests coming from faculty. There is a need to set policy for choosing MOU’s and partnerships and establish clear guidelines for faculty to follow.

g. Suggestion to explore more about funding from China for scholars to do research at URI

5) Discussion about how to organize the work of the committee included:
   a. Eliminate the Focus area regarding communication and replace with a more faculty-centered topic.
   b. Attempt to take six areas, combine into three and then form subcommittees.
   c. Recommendation that each committee member review the Global Task Force Report, which is about 24 pages, and pull out additional areas of focus and change/ add to the current draft.
   d. Suggestion to form a subcommittee for MOU/Partnership, chaired by Dania Brandford-Calvo, and begin working on the policies and procedures for development and approval of MOU’s and partnerships.

Decisions/Outcomes:

1) The committee will meet in May, before graduation. Nancy will send out a Meeting Wizard request, trying to set up a time during reading days

2) Before the next meeting, each member will review the Global Task Force Report and identify other key areas of focus OR additional topics to include in the six Focus Areas on the draft. This information can be emailed to Nancy Stricklin (nancys@uri.edu). She will compile it before the next meeting and bring in the recommendations to be reviewed by the committee.

3) Dania will continue to work on the MOU process. Nasser Zawia and Sigrid Berka volunteered to assist with this key area. Updates will be presented at the next meeting.

Objective of next meeting:
1) To finalize the key areas of focus and combine into three major groups.
2) To form subcommittees, with leaders, for the three focus areas.
3) To decide upon meeting schedule, including summer. Possibly a smaller group could meet in the summer to work on a specific objective.
4) To select a meeting time to reconvene as large group in fall.