Global Steering Committee Minutes  
January 31, 2013  
2:00 – 3:30 Alumni Board Room

Members present: David Abedon, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Shaw Chen, Alicia Curtin, Bo Gillie, Haibo He, Kristin Johnson, Ric McIntyre, Navindra Seeram, Nancy Stricklin, Nasser Zawia  
Provost Don DeHayes attended this meeting  
Members not present: Jenny Audette, Rainer Lohmann, Maureen Moakley, Kat Quina, Manbir Sodhi  
Minutes: Chelsey Hawes

1) Provost DeHayes gave a general welcome and expressed appreciation for the work the committee is doing. He feels the campus culture is changing in terms of international awareness, including increase in number of international students, J-term international programs increasing, and more MOU’s being introduced.

2) Nancy did a brief overview of what has been accomplished or in progress for the Provost. This included:
   a. Update on ACE students – 6 have completed program and started regular classes in January.
   b. Welcome Week – Orientation for international students – held in fall and spring
   c. Hillside Residence Hall will house international students and remain open over breaks
   d. Global Education Week – 2nd annual in November was a success
   e. Faculty International Travel Packets created for faculty assistance with recruitment
   f. New updated website for MOU and International Agreement guidance and info

3) Global Studies Minor – Ric McIntyre gave an update on this initiative. He reviewed the Hanover Report that compared Global Studies majors and minors in other institutions in our region and wrote a proposal for a URI Global Studies minor. There is a subcommittee formed (David Abedon, Tom Boving, Kristen Johnson, Nancy Stricklin) that will meet soon to review this proposal. An update and discussion will take place at the next meeting.

4) Global Web Site – Kerri Hicks and Sarah Couch from Communications attended the meeting and showed the website to the group. Landing pages and links have been added to each topic area. Introductory language has also been added to the main page. The committee had some feedback regarding specific areas:
   a. Add description of each photo so viewer knows location and person
   b. Add links to some missing international student organizations (Chinese, Muslim)
   c. List international Alumni Chapters
   d. Update list of courses with global theme – Dania said she has a student in OIE reading through the course catalog and separating out courses with a global focus.
   e. Add a link for students and/or faculty to find opportunities to fund research/study abroad/faculty-led programs.

5) Suggestion to the Provost to consider developing an office/program for mentoring faculty for Fulbright and/or other international programs. Currently, the only service is in the Honors Program and this is focused on undergraduates.
6) **International Student Enrollment Numbers** – Nancy presented on the current numbers of international students on campus, grad and undergrad. While the number of international undergraduates has increased, it still is approximately 1% of the total undergraduate student population. We are trying to increase this number in many ways – international recruitment trips, web updates, emails, on-line chats, and other “armchair” recruitment efforts.

7) **The Use of Agents in International Recruitment** – Nancy did a power-point presentation about the use of agents to help universities recruit students abroad. She addressed both myths and facts about this often controversial topic and gave an overview on many aspects including the advantages of having representation in another country, the model of payment, training of agents, international markets that use them, importance of getting student feedback, and contracts.

How do we know if an agency is a good one? AIRC (American International Recruitment Council) is a new organization that has developed an accreditation model to assure quality in international student recruitment. Nancy presented information about this and proposed that URI begin to “test the water” by partnering with a few AIRC certified agents. Comment that we need to be sure the accreditation agency is a legitimate and reputable organization.

Discussion followed the example that SUNY is now using agents and taking a percentage of tuition revenue from students sent by agents for a “global reinvestment fund.” This fund is used to give domestic students scholarships to study abroad and to support faculty international travel and research. Provost Dehayes expressed support of this model.

Overall comments from committee were supportive of the plan to move forward with this recruitment strategy. One committee member confirmed that in China many families use agents to help with the process of applying to US schools. Another suggestion was that we focus on a few countries at first and build support for these students on campus. The best method of recruitment is to have international students at URI be successful and happy. That word spreads quickly to family and friends in their home country.

**Follow Up:**
1) Global Minor subcommittee will meet and present updates at next meeting.
2) Nancy will follow up with Kerri and Sarah on Global Web updates including:
   a. alumni chapters added
   b. creating a form with questions for faculty regarding their region/topic of research and travel to add to the Research & Scholarship “bucket” database
   c. international student organizations missing from site
3) Dania’s student will continue to work on list of courses with a global theme.
4) Dania will work with Kerri and Sarah on some additions to her “bucket” including adding a link for where students can find funding for study abroad
5) Further discussion is needed about creation of office for faculty support for Fulbright.