Global Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2012
1:00 – 2:30 PM – Foundation Building

Members Present:  David Abedon, Jenny Audette, Sigrid Berka, Dania Brandford-Calvo, Mary Cloud, Bo Gillie, Kristin Johnson, Rainer Lohmann, Ric McIntyre, Kat Quina, Navindra Seeram, Manbir Sodhi, Nancy Stricklin, Nasser Zawia

Members Not Present:  Tom Boving, Shaw Chen, Haibo He, Maureen Moakley

Minutes:  Chelsey Hawes

*Introduction of members who missed last meeting.

*Nancy Stricklin created and distributed a list of the Recommendations for Immediate Implementation as defined by the Ad Hoc Global Task Force Summary Recommendations document. Some recommendations are already implemented or in process and many have yet to be implemented. The committee looked at the list, briefly discussed each item, made some suggestions and identified some goals that may be accomplished by the end of the summer. See notes of the discussion on each item below.

Already implemented or in process:

1)  Global Steering Committee appointed
2)  Partnership with A.C.E. for English Language services initiated (Pilot program began this spring with 6 students. These students have been conditionally admitted to URI, and are taking full time intensive English classes until they reach the level of proficiency (level 6) needed to begin their studies. This program operates in fall, spring and summer.)
3)  Develop a global competence General Ed requirement (in discussion with Fac Sen)
4)  Scholarships for international students (Merit scholarships for international undergraduates already exist. Suggestion to look at graduate level scholarship increasing and J-term scholarships. Suggestion to look at reducing tuition rates for international students.)
5)  In-depth orientation initiated for new international students prior to and upon arrival by Office of International Education. (This fall the Office of International Education is hosting a Welcome Week for all new international undergraduate students, including non-degree, degree and A.C.E. These students will arrive on campus a few days early and take part in programs and activities, in collaboration with the Office of New Student Programs in University College. Suggestion to provide more support services for post-docs and for all international students in general.)
6)  Organize Global Education Week on campus (This November the Office of International Education will organize a Global Education Week. More information and opportunities for involvement will be forthcoming to the campus community.)
7) Guarantee housing options and services (The Office of Housing and Residential Life has worked closely with the Office of International Education and International Admission. This fall housing will be offered to international students and it will remain open during all breaks. The Diversity House will be closed as of the fall. The new residence hall, Hillside, is supposed to open in the fall, but may be delayed. This new hall will be housing international students, both degree and non-degree, and A.C.E. students, as well as domestic students in nursing and pharmacy living learning communities. If it is not open by fall, Housing has agreed to place the students in an alternative building that will open early for their arrival for Welcome Week. Suggestion was made to pursue opportunities for more housing and updated housing for graduate students. Our current graduate village is dated and no new housing for grad students has been built in four decades.)

8) Support initiatives to build 3 + 1 (+2) programs with graduate school (There are MOU’s in process that support this initiative.)

9) Create a list of existing URI courses with a global focus (The current list of courses with a global theme, which was compiled by David Abedon for the original Global Task Force, needs to be updated. Kat Quina reported that she is working with the Academic Plan Review Committee. A questionnaire was sent out to all department chairs, which included a request to list courses with an international/global content. Kat will report on the status of this, with the goal being to generate a master list which could eventually be accessible on a global website.)

10) Better communicate fees and services for international students (This information is on-line but can be more user-friendly. Students have to click on multiple links to get the info. With a goal of developing a global website that is comprehensive, this would improve.)

11) Clearly identify and create parameters for developing MOU’s (This is a high priority. Dania will chair this subcommittee and meet in the summer. The goal is to clearly identify the parameters/ process of developing MOU’s to faculty by fall. This will include identifying best practices that are specific to URI. Committee includes Sigrid Berka, Nasser Zawia, Bo Gillie and Nancy Stricklin.)

To be implemented:

Committee did not have time to discuss each of these objectives. Ric McIntyre looked at this list and suggested that #1-4 were student oriented, #5-7 faculty oriented and #8-11 operational oriented. He suggested adding International Internships/fellowships and external funding to this list. He will look at #1-4 over the summer as an initial step.

1) Development of Global major and/or minor
2) Honors program explore track in globalization/global scholars
3) Organize international research opportunities for students w/funding
4) Organize a Global Education Fellows Program (Ric will look at #1-4 over the summer as an initial step. More follow up in the fall on these topics.)
5) Generate list of senior faculty mentors
6) Train faculty, provide materials and involve them in international recruitment (Nancy Stricklin, Bo Gillie and Jenny Audette will meet over the summer. Goal is to create a Faculty International Travel Packet to distribute to any faculty traveling internationally who is interested in assisting in recruitment efforts. Suggestion that faculty should have an incentive/stipend. Question arose as to how to find out where/when faculty are traveling. Nancy Stricklin will contact Trish Casey in the Travel Office and/or Controller’s Office to find out how to best gather this information.)

7) Develop a central database of faculty international research/projects (Discussion about how to gather this information from faculty. Will faculty respond to an email request to supply general info about their international research/accomplishments? Comment was made that we need to communicate to faculty what the end result of this request is.....goal to share this information with the community, to show pride in URI’s global development, eventually could be illustrated on a world map on a global website that shows regions of the world and faculty projects. Suggestion also made to provide an incentive for faculty to take part in this. Nancy Stricklin, Bo Gillie and Jenny Audette will discuss further this summer.)

8) Communicate strong commitment to internationalization in a vision or statement on URI webpage

9) Create a Global Website to communicate all related global activities, global education and services at URI - with links to all global related sites (Committee looked at a sample, Boston University, at www.bu.edu/global. They have a new Global site that is comprehensive, with links to many areas on campus related to global issues and international students. It provided a good illustration of what can be done in this area.)

10) Identify more appropriate facility/renovations for Office of International Education/OISS – create fundraising plan

11) Strengthen connections with international student organizations and students

Next steps:

1) MOU Subcommittee will meet this summer. Dania Brandford-Calvo, chair and Sigrid Berka, Nasser Zawia, Bo Gillie, Nancy Stricklin

2) Working group will meet this summer to pursue faculty training, support and involvement with international recruitment. Nancy Stricklin, Jenny Audette and Bo Gillie

3) Working group will meet this summer to investigate how to create a database of faculty international projects/initiatives/research. Nancy Stricklin, Bo Gillie and Jenny Audette

4) Global Steering Committee will gather again in the fall. Nancy will send out meeting times/dates.