Global Steering Committee (GSC) Minutes
November 19, 2020
1:30pm – 3pm

Members present: Gifty Ako-Adounvo, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Shaw Chen, Karen de Bruin, Bo Gillie, Rabia Hos, Tom Hospod, Kristin Johnson, Kathleen Maher, Diane Martins, Princess Metuge, Brietta Oakes, Nancy Stricklin, Elin Torell

Members Not Present: Nicole Asal, Donna Gamache-Griffith, Bill Gordon, Frankie Minor, Cara Mitnick, Rosaria Pisa

Agenda Item #1
International Education Week/Study Abroad Fair – November 2020

This year’s IEW has been very successful and well-attended. There were more events during this week than in the past. Combining it with the Study Abroad Fair, all virtual, worked out well for presenters and students.

Agenda Item #2
Global Option/Certificate – Student Credential of Global Curriculum

Based upon feedback on this proposal from the previous meeting, Gifty is recommending that the Global Steering Committee proceed with developing a proposal to create this Global Option for students. The key areas to address may include:

- List of courses with global content/theme
- Culture courses
- Language
- Study abroad
- Portfolio
- Capstone project
- Evaluation/build competencies in measurable way

There would be standard components within the Global Option, but colleges may shape it according to their curriculum areas. No additional credits are needed; rather, it is built within the programs.

A sub-committee will begin to work on this. The Global Steering Committee will serve in an advisory capacity and bring to colleges. Gifty will share her former institution’s model for the committee to review. Most was for undergraduates, but it was suggested URI should also include graduate students.

The Peace Corps Prep Program does have a list of courses that will be shared with the sub-committee. Also, courses that meet general education outcomes of global and diversity should be reviewed.

The sub-committee will prepare a draft document/guide and bring to colleges and the larger community. Goal is to get a proposal done by middle of spring 2021 semester. It could take a year to have this approved and initiated as a pilot within one college.
Members of Global Option Sub-Committee:
Gifty
Tom Boving
Brie Oaks
Rabia Hos
Princess Metuge
Diane Martins

**Agenda Item #3**
Status of International Travel for Spring 2021

At the most recent meeting of the International Travel Review Committee, the decision was made to extend restriction on international travel for URI faculty, staff and students through May 1st.

Kristin Johnson, on behalf of the signature URI global programs (International Studies and Diplomacy, International Engineering Program, International Business Program, Chinese Language Flagship Program) presented a request to Gifty (Chair, International Travel Review Committee) with the following:

- The key programs have learning outcomes that are fundamentally tied to international travel, including internships, language learning, and cultural immersion. If students cannot do their travel abroad, it negatively affects the academic goals of the programs.
- Faculty advisors/program directors of the key programs are requesting to have an advisory role on the International Travel Review Committee on decisions of travel and recall. They would like to see decisions based upon balancing safety and risk with academic needs.
- Advisors would like to give input based upon regions within some countries. COVID risk is variable within countries, as it is within states in the US.
- Some partners have very longstanding strong relationships with URI and would provide ample support to URI students, even during the pandemic.

Gifty reviewed the steps taken during January and February when students needed to be recalled. The program advisors were highly involved. Moving forward, she recognized that this role could be formalized. She will bring this request to the International Travel Review Committee.

Tom Hospod, who has been on the committees that put together the new International Travel Policy, which became effective in February 2020, gave some history and said it did include faculty input. It probably needs some updating because it was developed over the course of a few years, pre-COVID. The policy needs more refinement. It is a work-in-progress.

Question arose of how this travel moratorium will affect the balance with student exchange partners. Needs more discussion.

**Agenda Item #4**
Global Mobility Travel Grants

Because of the restriction on international travel for spring 2021, these grants will be for use starting summer 2021, fall 2021 and spring 2022. The funds would have to be used by end of June 2022. Gifty
will prepare to send out the request for proposals during spring 2021. This time cycle seems better for faculty, as they will have more time to plan ahead. The committee supports this proposal.

**Agenda Item #5**

**Housing Updates**

At this time, Housing has sent out the message that rooms in residence halls on campus will be available for spring 2021. All students will have to quarantine for 2 weeks before classes start. All students will be tested upon arrival. This is not finalized yet, the plan is evolving.

**Other Announcements**

**Undergraduate Admissions Update**

- In-state and out-of-state applications for fall 2022 are down.
- International applications for fall 2022 are doubled. (Numbers still small but this is encouraging.)

**Providence Campus**

- Student support services are being improved and expanded on the Providence campus.
- There is interest in finding international internships for students on the Providence campus.
- Talent Development Scholars are now working with Princess Metuge’s office in Providence for career services.