Members present: David Abedon, Jenny Audette, Sigrid Berka, Tom Boving, Shaw Chen, Linda Foley-Vinay, Bo Gillie, Bill Gordon, Haibo He, Norbert Hedderich, Tom Hospod, Kristin Johnson, Kathleen Maher, Diane Martins, Cara Mitnick, Karen Sherman, Nancy Stricklin, Elin Torell

Members Not Present: Laura Beauvais, Princess Metuge, Rosaria Pisa, Navindra Seeram, Karen Sherman, Nasser Zawia

Integration of Study Abroad into Curriculum by Engaging Advisors

The Committee is continuing its work to implement goals and strategies from the Academic Plan. Under Goal 3, one of the strategies includes expanding efforts to increase numbers of domestic students engaging in an international education experience. The Committee invited Linda Moffat, Assistant Dean, University College for Academic Success and Kim White, Director of Academic Advising, University College for Academic Success to the meeting to begin the discussion.

UCAS Advisors:

There are 15 new Professional Advisors at UCAS now, most have a specific college focus or work with undecided majors. This is a new model. All report to Kim White. Offices on “garden floor” of Roosevelt. They have walk-in hours and flex hours and often go to residence halls in the evening. They know about the curriculum in the specific college they represent. However, they get questions about study abroad and, per Kim, they do not know enough about what to share with the students, but would like to! They need some training.

How can the professional advisors get the information? How can the students get the information? Goal is to expose freshmen early enough so they can see how study abroad would fit into their curriculum plan.

Suggestions, Comments and Recommendations:

- Can study abroad be added to the curriculum sheet that each student has? This would show a pathway for the students to plan accordingly. Would have to be done per major. Some majors, like marine biology, have already done this very well. Suggestion that Jackie Webb, chair of marine biology, do a workshop for other departments on how to do this.
- Add a flyer to the Orientation Packet that is handed to students AND to parents. There is currently no flyer about study abroad in the packets. However, the Office of International Education already does presentations to all students at orientation and hands out brochures, so the students do get the information. They get so much
information at orientation, it can be overwhelming. Suggestion to add the flyer to the parent/family folder, since they read everything more carefully.

- Put posters/materials in the Student Involvement suite in Roosevelt. Gets lots of traffic.
- Add information to the UCAS website.
- Add question to Pink Sheet – an advising profile sheet that is filled out by student on first day of orientation. Add a question on this about whether they are interested in studying abroad. This pink sheet is used by the advisor on day two of orientation to help select classes. **(Already done since meeting!)**
- Present a workshop/training for professional advisors on what they need to know to advise students with questions. Include information about J-term, summer programs, spring break programs, international internships, international volunteer experiences. Staff from Office of International Education can work with Kim White to schedule accordingly. Advisors have weekly staff meetings on Thursdays. In fall 2018, all 120 sections of URI 101 will be visited or taught by a professional advisor. Good opportunity to spread the word about URI’s opportunities for international educational experiences.
- Impress on students that if they are considering an international experience, it is recommended that they start studying a language in freshman year. Sometimes sophomore year is too late to begin study and get to a preferred level of proficiency. Suggestion that someone from languages attend a weekly professional advisors meeting to explain in more detail.
- Request that professional advisors meet with the assistant dean in their specific college to get information about incorporating study abroad into the curriculum.
- Office of International Education is lacking resources, not able to meet with every student regarding study abroad. Outreach used to be here, not possible at this time. Student request for meetings has dwindled. Most done on line now. Building into the curriculum is most effective way to encourage students.

The Global Steering Committee and the UCAS team had a good start to this discussion and now has a foundation to build upon. Follow up in the fall needs to take place. This conversation will continue over the summer with Kim White regarding future meetings with the advisors. Nancy will communicate with Kim and set up a follow up meeting.

**Global Website Update**
The URI Web Communications team came to the meeting to present and showcase new pages of the website. It is not launched yet. Will be in fall. URI new homepage being launched May 29th. It will have a new look and feel - less words, and larger format, full screen images. It will be very visual, with big buttons and buckets and will make information easier to find. This approach will be used for the global website as well.

John Pennypacker, Manager of URI Web Communications, showcased a few of the global pages. The pages include large, colorful and dynamic images of international destinations with
URI students in most of them. Captions will be added. Still many pages to create. Languages will be one of the highlights. There will be links to each major. Storytelling and video will be included, with interviews of students who will talk about their international experiences. Map of world with links to faculty research is still a work in progress.

Follow up:

- Set up a sub-committee to work with John and his team over the summer on details.
- Find out where the email goes with faculty project updates so that the information can be added to the world map.
- Explore ways to get faculty to add their information to the website.
- Web team would like more metrics to add to the pages. (ex. 715 global internships)
  Find more data to use.

**Student Success through International Education Project**

Tom Hospod was contacted by IIE to see if URI would be interested in taking part in a research project that is a follow up to the [Glossari Project](#) from 2000. Would bring prestige to URI nationally and internationally. It is a Department of Education 3 year grant, which would start this summer. Data collection on students is requested. URI’s Office of Institutional Research, Enrollment Services and Office of International Education would be involved. This would need a “champion” to oversee. OIE staff not able to do this. Tom suggesting that the Global Steering Committee propose this opportunity to the Provost.

Follow up:

Tom will email the written project information to the members of the Global Steering Committee. Nancy will follow up with the committee to get a sense of support and then follow up with Laura. Plan is to present to the Provost if committee supports this.

**Update on International Fellowships and Scholarships**

Kathleen Maher gave a brief overview of URI students’ success in obtaining fellowships and scholarships for international experiences this year. These include:

- 5 Boren Scholars (up to $20K funding to Indonesia, Senegal and China)
- 2 Fulbright Awards (to Colombia and Spain)
- 18 Demers Foreign Language Fellows ($233,900 combined total)
- 1 DAAD RISE Germany Award (funded summer research internship in Germany)

Tom Hospod and Kathleen gave update on the Gilman International Scholarship, which supports Pell-eligible students with study and internship abroad funding. OIE has done a great job at promoting the program on campus and offers multiple workshops per semester to encourage application. The Office of National Fellowships also helps promote and support applicants to the Gilman. Tom, Kathleen and other OIE staff members have served on the national selection panel for the Gilman to increase their expertise as advisors to the program.
URI applicants do quite well with this nationally competitive award, and the institution was recently recognized by the US Department of State as a “Top Producer” in two categories. There has been considerable press and publicity about URI and the Gilman Scholarship. URI’s article:

“The U.S. Department of State announced its inaugural list of U.S. higher education institutions that sent the most students overseas on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program in academic year 2016-2017. The University of Rhode Island has been recognized for its success in making international study and internships more accessible and inclusive for American students of all backgrounds through the Gilman Program.

The State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, compiles the list, organized by institution size and type.

The University of Rhode Island has been cited for success in the following categories:

Top Medium Colleges and Universities (5,000-15,000 undergrads)

Top Producer: STEM Students

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, with the support of the U.S. Congress, is reshaping study abroad to make it more accessible and inclusive for American students. The Gilman Program broadens the U.S. student population that studies and interns abroad by providing scholarships to outstanding undergraduates who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Since the program’s establishment in 2001, over 1,300 U.S. institutions have sent more than 25,000 Gilman scholars to 145 countries around the globe.

To date, over 100 students at the University of Rhode Island have been selected as Gilman Scholarship recipients!”