Global Steering Committee (GSC) Minutes  
February 7, 2019  
1:30pm – 3pm  

**Members present**: Gifty Ako-Adounvo, Nicole Asal, Tom Boving, Shaw Chen, Donna Gamache-Griffith, Bo Gillie, Bill Gordon, Haibo He, Kristin Johnson, Kathleen Maher, Rosaria Pisa, Nancy Stricklin, 

**Members Not Present**: Sigrid Berka, Norbert Hedderich, Tom Hospod, Diane Martins, Princess Metuge, Cara Mitnick, Brietta Oakes, Elin Torell, Nasser Zawia

**Distinguished International Visiting Scholars Program**  
The Office of the Provost is continuing the Distinguished Visiting International Scholars Program for the 2019-2020 academic year. This initiative is designed to support the scholarly mission and global perspective of URI. The goals of this program are to demonstrate URI’s commitment to research and scholarship, engage the campus community, strengthen emphasis on global learning and discovery, build international collaborations and enhance the visibility of URI around the country and the world. The program funds four international scholars (preferably two in fall and two in spring) for a four to five-day visit, which includes two lectures, meetings with undergraduate and graduate students and engagement with URI faculty in the respective field.

Vice Provost Gifty Ako-Adounvo will now oversee this program. A request for applications was distributed to the faculty in early February with a deadline of April 22, 2019. Gifty is forming a review committee for this program and asked Global Steering Committee members for volunteers. (Previous members of the committee are welcome to stay on or not.)

Currently, the committee will include:

- Tom Boving  
- Bo Gillie  
- Kristen Johnson  
- Kathleen Maher  
- Nancy Stricklin

Please contact Nancy Stricklin if you are interested in joining this committee.

**Global Mobility Travel Grants for Faculty – Call for Proposals**  
Gifty is introducing this travel grant for faculty, with the goal of increasing international mobility opportunities for teaching, conducting research and attending international conferences. These grants are available to support faculty travel for participating in international collaborative research, creative expression, site visits and conferences. (In case of conferences, preference will be given to applicants who are presenting a paper or work of creative expression.) There will be 25 Grants awarded of $800-$2000. Travel must be completed by June 30, 2019. The Call for Proposals was to go out within a week of the Global Steering Committee meeting.
Gifty asked for input from the Global Steering Committee on this proposed grant. Discussion followed which included:

- Should professional staff also be included in this grant?
- What are outcomes of a faculty member going to an international conference?
- Importance of faculty networking at conferences for future research collaboration opportunities.
- Can more than one faculty member partner together and apply for a grant?
- Benefit to non-STEM departments, because they often don’t have the available funding to travel for research or conferences.

Gifty is considering the input above and was planning to send out the Call for Proposals by Feb. 12th.

The review committee for the Global Mobility Travel Grant could use a few other members and currently includes:

Donna Gamache-Griffith
Nicole Asal
Nancy Stricklin

Please contact Nancy Stricklin if you are interested in joining this committee.

**Academic Plan Goal 3 “Growing a Global Presence”**

Models of future enrollment at URI are reflecting upcoming challenges, which include changes in demographics, changes in the states appropriation to URI, as well as significant changes in expected tuition revenue. Therefore, Gifty has determined that the Global Steering Committee should focus this semester on Strategy 5 “Expand support structures and efforts to increase numbers of domestic students engaging in an international education experience and the successful recruitment, enrollment and retention of international students.”

Discussion followed on ways to increase the recruitment and enrollment of international undergraduate and graduate students. Comments/input included:

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

- Nancy Stricklin gave update on status of pathway programs. URI’s pathway program, Cambridge Education Group, is closing its site in summer 2019. URI has been contacted by other pathway programs, who are expressing interest in partnering with URI, since news of CEG’s leaving URI has become public. URI has not made any decisions about whether to have another pathway program, but is going to have meetings with INTO and Shorelight pathway programs to gather information. (Most pathway programs recruit both undergraduate and graduate students.)
- Bo Gillie gave an update on spring recruitment plans from the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Plans include Travel to Korea and Taiwan. URI might host a reception in Taiwan for interested students, parents and alumni.
- Pakistan sends highest number of applications each year. Last spring, URI hosted four guidance counselors from Pakistan for a tour of URI. This included meetings with faculty from many different colleges. Currently there is an increase in the number of applications from Pakistan.
This spring Bo will organize another guidance counselor visit to URI and invite counselors from Pakistan, Nepal, Nigeria, Taiwan and Ghana.

- Bo will be going on a recruitment trip organized to visit secondary private schools (boarding schools) in the US. The number of international students at these schools around the country is increasing.
- Bo gave an overview of scholarships for international undergraduate students and is advocating for increasing amounts. Many peer institutions are doing the same to yield international undergraduates. A proposal about targeting a specific country/region and focusing on that as a pilot will be put forth to the Vice Provost of Enrollment Services, Dean Libutti, for his review.
- Educational Service Providers (Agents) are not being used effectively by URI due to an issue with risk management and the legal office regarding insurance and liability and the contract. This challenge has hindered URI’s ability to work with agents. Attention to this needs to occur.
- Bermuda College (2-year college) and URI are working together on an Articulation Agreement for Marine Biology. Students would come to URI from Bermuda for two years and complete a Bachelor’s of Science in Marine Biology. Should be ready to go by fall 2019.
- Everett Community College in Seattle, Washington and URI are working on an agreement for students from Indonesia to transfer to URI in a variety of majors.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

- Question was raised about whether URI does targeted recruitment for international graduate students. URI does not.
- Haibo He shared that he travels regularly to China to recruit for his PhD students. He recognizes that there is a huge untapped potential for self-paying graduate students interested in Master’s degrees. 99% of graduate students in Engineering are international. Needs to be explored further.
- Graduate School application fee apparently increased significantly. This could be a cause for concern regarding increasing number of applicants.
- Cost of tuition and fees plays a huge role in graduate student interest. Question of whether URI provides scholarships to international graduate Master’s degree applicants was raised. URI does not seem to do this. Needs to be explored further, since it would help to increase URI’s brand recognition if there were some scholarships available.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

- How much effort is being focused on countries with developing middle class as a source for potential students?
- URI should not overlook recruiting from American territories such as Guam. URI does do some recruitment in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.
- Need to look into branching into new international markets.
- Use of alumni internationally is important to consider as part of an overall strategy.

The Global Steering Committee is being tasked with developing concrete recommendations for international recruitment. Gifty will present this to the Provost’s team for review. Goal is to look at how URI can remove barriers to assist international students in applying and attending URI.