

Note taking template
Academic Planning Summit
January 16, 2015

Title of Session: Focus on student success and support, both international students coming to URI and URI students going abroad

Faculty Facilitator(s): Chelsey Hawes & Corey Smith

Note taker name: Sarah Maitland

Check one:

Morning Breakout 1 **Morning breakout 2**
 Afternoon breakout **Afternoon breakout 2**

Ideas proposed/Recommendations

Suggestions for URI students studying or working abroad:

Instill the idea of study abroad into students early on.

Use returning students as ambassadors to help students understand and value the opportunity.

Use student ambassadors in the classrooms to introduce study abroad, perhaps in URI 101 and/or other freshman experience classrooms.

More administrative support to:

- help the see how they can fit study abroad into their major curriculum
- make connections with other land grant universities for students to access their study abroad internship connections
- find internship opportunities for students that further the work in their majors, perhaps as part of a collaboration between experiential learning and the office of international learning Set up a study abroad program at sister universities domestically (Study Away/National Student Exchange)

Create bridges classes where teachers join together with teachers abroad. Provide opportunities for faculty who are doing this now to collaborate with faculty who want to do it in the future.

Create a listserv of study abroad internships and opportunities

Suggestions for international students coming here

Reduce tuition costs to make URI an option for more students

Set up a one-to-one exchange with desirable international institutions

Promote internship, community service, and environmental benefits and opportunities in our marketing

Have students make foreign language videos describing their experience as international students at URI and make them available on our website to market the program abroad

Expand programs to help international students with integration and socialization

Can learning communities engage students by providing social gatherings and is there funding available

Make a list of students and faculty coming from abroad, where they're coming from, and how to get in touch with them available to chairs. Use this information to maintain a relationship with these students after they graduate and network with them long term to establish partnerships with their countries.

Notable Issues, Questions, Challenges:

For the most part study abroad is aimed at students in languages or majors that include global issues/concerns.

Many students value working abroad more than studying abroad.

Does the university value international students for the money they bring or for the diversity they provide in the community and the classroom?

Many employers don't understand that international students can take advantage of internships as long as they are unpaid

Do we have special/unique programs that would be attractive to international students? Do we promote them?

International students need to have homes in their departments--department outreach is important.

Encourage international students to take courses (like language classes) with students who are interested in other cultures

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Notable Issues, Questions, Challenges:

Suggestions for URI students studying or working abroad:

Study abroad programs with faculty members for a full semester or year where faculty would change places with faculty abroad to ease the worry of parents and students.

Disseminate more information about the specifics of the study abroad programs that are available.

More collaboration from the international office with the departments to help promote the study abroad programs to students.

Promote more short-term study abroad programs and develop an exchange with other countries so they can come here short term.

Find a way to offer housing for the short term visitors

Make study abroad part of the curriculum.

Provide opportunities for departments to match up curriculum requirements with study abroad opportunities with the help of the international office

Value the work faculty does to set up study abroad opportunities as part of the tenure and advancement

Provide institutional funding and grants in an effort to help offset costs for internships

Allocate resources to create a database of past internship experiences that students can look at for ideas and possible opportunities.

Invite alumni to volunteer to connect with study abroad students in the future

Identify study abroad programs for each major so that students coming in to the international office can find out what is available to them that will fill requirements and make this information available on the website

Suggestions for international students coming here

Provide more integrative housing to help international students acclimate and integrate

Provide integrated housing that is half international students and half students from URI that are interested in cultural exchange (IEP etc.)

Admission site should be multilingual to help parents of interested international students

Appoint some kind of point person for international students so they have someone to call or coordinate with. Perhaps the point person should be able to speak their first language.

More strategic initiatives in choosing which locations and which universities we want to target for relationships and exchanges

Scholarship funding to offer to international students

Funding for departments to promote their own programs to international students

Credit for students for being student ambassadors

Supplement the student ambassador program with cross cultural training

Look at pedagogic and cultural differences and draw on women's center, LBGTQ, and maybe the education department's initiative on pedagogy to develop presentations for orientation or a first semester course to help international students understand cultural differences

Make a video with frequently asked questions answered in native languages

Create collaboration with other international offices at Rhode Island schools

Create a cross cultural course with US students and International student. It would give the domestic students the opportunity for a global experience without leaving the campus. They could combine it with the co-living and maybe the global minor as a kind of living learning community.

Funding to bring people from a developing country with the intention of empowering a profession from a developing country. As a full scholarship, using the full-bright model, where they would train here and bring their training home to the prof