Global Programs Committee Meeting --- 1/28/14

I. Welcome – New Committee Members and Introduction

**Members Present:** Michael A. Adewumi, Colleen Connolly-Ahern, Gregory A. Crawford (by phone), Molly N Droelle, Juan Fernández-Jiménez, Andrew S. Freiberg, Ian C. Gilchrist, Benjamin T. Hudson, M. Amanul Haque, Henry J. Morello, John A. Nousek, Willie K. Ofosu, Zachary M. Rinker

**Members Absent:** Colleen P. Balukas, Michael J. Chorney, Madhuri Desai, Barrie E. Litzky, Valerie Ann Lynn, Jon F. Nussbaum, Rama B. Radhakrishna

II. Minutes of Dec. 10, 2013 – approved

Announcements:
- Three UPUA resolutions that are going to be looked at by the Senate – syllabi policy, mandated excused class absences for job interviews and an academic credit resolution that is still being worked on. Penn State will be looking for a Faculty Senate representative to COIA, The Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Faculty Benefits is an issue that is going to be discussed before the Senate

III. No Old Business

IV. New Business – Vice Provost Adewumi

- Global Engagement Network – faculty-driven process to create partnerships around the world. India is currently the major focus, especially on Zagreb University – with multiple universities; 700+ colleges including research universities and undergraduate universities.
- Alumni session occurred while Dr. Adewumi was in India.
- He also made a trip to Croatia in Western Europe.
- The University Office of Global Programs (UOGP) Strategic Planning Committee is beginning a deeper conversation and looking into details on the Framework for Global Strategy.
- He also gave a speech to the Academic Council presenting on behalf of ‘Building a Global Penn State.’

Greg asked what is the yield of applications for international student

Adewumi: The yield of international student application is very high.

Name unknown: What is the potential of the pipe actually bursting?

Adewumi: Determines the budget each year and what amount of money we receive from the state and we ensure that the pipe will not burst when bringing on new students. So Global Programs looks very closely at the number of students they accept each year. People have developed models at Penn State as to how many people apply to Penn State and we almost have it down to a science almost within 100 or so. Many of the campus enrollments are down so we can also try and persuade students to attend a campus.
The Committee then proceeded to introduce Barbara Rowe, Executive Director of Education Abroad and Debbie from Dubois. Barbara is an expert in study abroad and has worked at various locations including Yale. Barbara came back to Penn State in 2009 and she was attracted back because Penn State was seriously looking at turning Penn State into a leading globally-engaged institution. She believes students engaging internationally is incredibly important to a student’s education.

Debbie spoke on the belief that many of the international programs that were coming out of the college campuses were not academically sound so the international committee was created to enhance this exact notion. There is more academic content/a strong academic content so that the embedded programs are not just tourism. In 2011, there was a task force that changed the term “embedded program” to a “course with a travel component.” However, the term “embedded programs” has not died. Now 70-90 embedded programs are offered each year and the number is constantly growing.

Molly: Spoke on behalf of her embedded program experience in Thailand and Cambodia and how incredible it is for students to engage in a new culture which teaches skills students could never learn in an in-class experience.

New Committee Member: has been leading an embedded program in Spain for a very long time.

Barbara: The importance of faculty driven programs and how these programs are set up.

Debbie: At University College campuses these embedded programs are very important because a semester or year-long program does not usually fit into a student’s schedule. For example, she is going to Guatemala where it fits right into the college campus and the two year associate degree for students it’s very important.

Barbara: Her office is very limited but they do all of the risk management and handle very little funding. The HTH insurance is a major component of her office. Any and all medical, political, or natural evacuations if needed are handled as she has in the past for students in Egypt and Japan. Faculty members leading an embedded program also need to attend a one-hour emergency planning session. So that’s what her office does and both her office and Debbie receive a lot of inquiries from faculty wanting to know what they can do to run a program. They try and partner interested faculty with faculty who are experienced in running embedded programs. The College of Ag Sciences is the leader in the University in running embedded programs.

Colleen: Project this semester is going to be with people who have run very successful programs and also programs that have not been very successful. They
will be working with graduate students to collect this data, which will hopefully create a very successful guide for faculty interested in starting a program.

Barbara: There are no protocols that are University-wide and there are a lot of factors that come into play. Another issue is the cost of an embedded program is not listed on students’ bursar account because it is not currently counted into student attendance. She would also like to see more financial assistance for students and faculty.

Adewumi: There is assistance that faculty can apply for through the University to help with the program.

Barbara: There is a Commonwealth Student Travel Grant that is in its second year to go to the campus to help, not the individual student, but the campus to divide evenly among students who are participating in a program. There is only $60,000 a year that can be awarded so it is not a lot of money by any means. The need for financial assistance for students is definitely there. They select students from 240 applicants; awards numbers into the 90s. They give preferences to students other than U.P., first generation college students, and students who have never traveled abroad before. They don’t announce that information on the website but it is a very complex system when to award students this aid. Data show embedded programs have many minority students and the male proportion students is higher than semester programs. Semester abroad 70% are white females. It is to see that important embedded programs are becoming more diverse. Parents are also more inclined to allow their students to attend a short-term faculty lead program than an entire semester abroad on their own.

Committee Member: Do classes not fill because of finances?

Barbara: It’s a case by case concern.

Molly: Faculty truly work with the students to figure out a way to make it affordable. Students in the class also fund-raise together as a group.

Colleen: What’s a main barrier for the Bursar?

Barbara: She doesn’t really understand. In 2011, when the Faculty Senate Task Force met she was in a meeting with the Bursar, Registrar, Undergrad. Ed, and trying to understand why can’t these charges be listed under the Bursar Account? Who is going to answer all of the parents’ phone calls, and can we create a button to list the faculty’s phone number...

Greg: Also because each campus uses a different provider.

Adewumi: Penn State is such a large entity. The Bursar is reluctant to change because they are used to what they are doing. If the goal is to encourage students to
participate in study abroad programs we need the Bursar and potentially this new software to cooperate with one another. Each office at our University is already too busy to do one more new thing... with the new provost we are already in discussion to make changes like this and make things more flexible to help the students to do this.

Barbara: Reviewing transcripts and trying to fill out forms that identify equivalent courses and grades for each course from study abroad trips. This is a major area that takes a lot of time.

Committee Member: In 2011, she was on the Senate and there was quite a bit of discussion over the federal financial aid law and that embedded programs needed to occur within semester courses and many of these programs didn't fit into this schedule. How is this issue working out in practice almost three years later?

Barbara: Penn State a long time ago defined itself as a term based system through federal financial aid and we were in violation and as a result of that now students have to be registered as students within the semester standing. The biggest issue has been the need to be registered students and some of the campuses have opened up the trip to community members and parents and this issue has stopped because of the risk management issues. It has caused some planning issues for faculty but since then she believes the issue has been resolved.

Debbie: The created chart... In 2009-2010 there was a dip in college programs but since then they have raised 10-15 programs a year, which doesn't sound like a lot, but it really is. A lot of the campuses have also looked into outside donors, which has really helped cover a major part of trip costs. The University College campuses have little to no financial assistance for embedded programs.

Barbara: Another problem is that travel agencies are used to set up the trips and risk management has a certain amount of liability to each trip. One million was the original fine and it now increased to 10 million, so hopefully this stops. Beth Seymour is very concerned that this is going to limit programs because the travel agency needs to have the insurance, which excludes a number of companies. (Discussion on this topic continued for a variety of committee members) Her work with Penn State’s risk management system and they do an incredible job at what they do. They take their job very seriously and they ensure that students and faculty both understand their level of risk in whichever area of the world they are attending.

Colleen: A subcommittee on Embedded programs is working on a report – the point is that the campuses do not have enough funding to plan these programs.

Debbie: Dubois campus not get any support for these programs. They are all out of pocket for her and she goes to the country ahead of time before she takes students with her. They have a new Chancellor who is really supportive in finding outside
donors to help, but it is a major struggle that there is little to no funding for her campus to have these programs.

Adewumi: This is a very good point. He will make it a mission to speak out to more of the campus Chancellors because they do seem eager to help make their campus more globally involved.

Molly: Are there faculty that can collaborate at multiple campuses who teach similar courses to tackle a program together and have students from different campuses attending the same travel abroad experience even if maybe they weren't students in the same course – or if faculty can lead a polycom type course opening it up to students across the campuses? Or is this completely out of the question and just complicating the idea of study abroad/embedded program?

Debbie: Dubois, Beaver, and Schuylkill have collaborated on multiple embedded programs because it cuts down the cost for everyone. Various campuses are currently collaborating.

Colleen: Thanked everyone, and asked subcommittees to start their discussion.

Subcommittee reports:

The Engaged Scholarship Committee has completed its work.
No other subcommittee reports were ready.

Minutes prepared by Molly Droelle, Member, Global Programs Committee