Global Programs Committee Meeting --- 4/29/14
Minutes

I. Welcome at 9:00 AM


Members Absent: Colleen Connolly-Ahern, Molly N. Droelle, M. Amanul Haque, Benjamin T. Hudson, Henry J. Morello, Jon F. Nussbaum, Rama B. Radhakrishna, Zachary M. Rinker

II. Minutes of March 18, 2014, meeting approved.

III. Announcements

Michael Adewumi thanked the members of the committee for their service. He provided an update on the Global Engagement Network. The GENs with the University of Freiberg and the University of Cape Town are now self-propelling and running well. GENs will be moving to a thematic approach. The first will be focused on global health and will involve multilateral institutions. A meeting to further develop the project will be held at Penn State on May 15 and 16 with ten institutions planning on attending. Adewumi is working on a new generation of GENs in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Japan, Peru, Mexico, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Australia, and New Zealand. Adewumi recently traveled to Turkey, Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Dubai to explore cooperation but also with the intention to recruit students to increase the geographic diversity of international students. Another initiative is the creation of joint centers with partner institutions. One is currently operating between PSU and Dalian University (China) that focuses on clean energy. A second is being developed with the University of Pune (India) that will be more broadly focused.

IV. Old Business

Embedded Programs Report Status: Graduate students under the direction of Colleen Connolly-Ahern are still working on their interviews and report on best practices.

International Students Welfare Report: Greg Crawford requested a summary from Damon Sims of the meeting with international students from last year, but no response to the request was received. The report completed by Molly Droelle concerning the Abington meeting with international students has been placed on the committee’s ANGEL site. In addition, a short report from a meeting held at Harrisburg with international students has also been place on the ANGEL site.
V. New Business

The General Education Task Force asked the Global Programs Committee to discuss the question, “How could international study and global engagement be used to enhance general education?” Discussion focused on students and what should they know as a result of completing general education. Students need a global perspective, as indicated by Willie Ofosu’s class on the geography of Africa which focuses both on the physical features of the land as well as the cultures and history of the people. Every general education course needs a global component. The overall purpose should be to create global citizens, which provides both an integration of ideas and employment opportunities. A global perspective needs to be integrated into the curriculum. Although foreign travel is highly beneficial, this is not available for all students; however, it is not always necessary to go abroad to be engaged globally. For example, it can be addressed through problem design in collaboration with students or institutions in other countries. The committee concluded that it can think of no discipline or career that is not affected by global thinking. PSU must be a leader in globalization. Finally, to understand ourselves better, we must travel; it helps us define our own identity.

Ideas for next year’s committee were discussed. One topic that needs to be discussed is international scholars coming to PSU. Over the last two years, the number has grown from approximately 900 known scholars in residence to over 1500. Another topic to be discussed is strategic planning for the UOGP. Third, currently over 3000 students study abroad, but there are many more students who are going abroad for a variety of programs, research, and other reasons related to Penn State. The UOGP needs better control of this traffic. Fourth, embedded programs need additional discussion, especially to ensure that there is academic content in the course and that it is not just a trip abroad. The UOGP has no approval process or oversight for these courses. Discussion of the need for oversight of embedded courses to ensure accountability. Fifth, a report for next year should focus on the annual statistics of students studying abroad (both in residence at programs and in embedded programs) and for the number of international students.

Also, the committee discussed other groups or individuals who should present to the committee. Suggestions included development, outreach (especially as a result of engaged scholarship), risk management (probably Gary Langsdale), and sponsored research.

Minutes prepared by Gregory Crawford, Chair, Global Programs Committee