

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee: International Programs

Academic Year Covered by Report: 2014-15

Date Report Submitted: June 1, 2015

Report Submitted by: Rob Sandruck, Chair

Number of times committee met: 8 times over the academic year

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on International Programs began the year with a committee wide discussion of areas of interests and priorities for the committee. This productive discussion led to wide array of topics. Myself and the chair-elect, Rudi Seracino refined the list, grouping the items together around central ideas which are listed below:

- **THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**
 - Increasing the number of student from NC State who study abroad. Using NC State's "Generation Study Abroad" pledge through the Institute of International Education (IIE) to increase by 50% the number of students studying abroad by 2019.
 - Focus on credit equivalencies/curriculum integration to ensure students can transfer classes taken abroad back to their NC State degree.
 - Broaden efforts to have students receive prestigious international awards such as the Gilman, Boran, Churchill, and Rhodes awards.
- **INTRA COLLEGE CONNECTIONS AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION**
 - Continue efforts for each academic unit to prepare a "college inventory" that outlines the student engagement, faculty research, and extension work conducted internationally of each unit.
 - With this data, identify common areas around the world and create "hubs" that multiple units can collaborate/share resources while focusing the University's efforts in target areas of the world.
- **FACULTY SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**
 - Integrate international engagement more fully in the promotion and tenure process.
 - Develop/encourage international faculty exchange/sabbaticals
 - Enhance the Jackson Rigney Award.
- **FACULTY RESEARCH**
 - Coordinate the annual CIP Internationalization SEED Grant and evaluate funding levels to see if current levels are sufficient.
 - Evaluate how to engage more faculty in UPGN partnerships for further international research collaboration.

The larger committee was broken down into subcommittees to discuss and evaluate each of these four major areas and which led to the recommendations outlined below.

For the first time, in October 2014, we held a joint meeting with the International Operations Committee (the administrative counterpart to CIP). Dr. Bailian Li and Ms. Ingrid Schmidt presented on the current “state” of international affairs and student engagement at the University. Later in the year, we invited other University colleagues to attend CIP meetings and present on their area of expertise. This included,

- Julia Law, Associate Director of Study Abroad – *curriculum integration*
- Kim Priebe, Associate Director of Study Abroad – *statistics on students studying abroad*
- Art Rice, Associate Dean College of Design, *Prague Institute*

Finally, each academic unit represented on the committee was asked to work on two reports. The first was the college inventory mentioned above. The second report was a “strategic plan” on how the academic unit would increase by 50% the number of students studying abroad by 2019.

From these activities, the following recommendations were developed and are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IDENTIFY REGIONAL HUBS AND ALIGN INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ACADEMIC UNITS AROUND THESE HUBS.

Through the college inventories mentioned above, identify regions of the world where NC State faculty and students are already engaged. Also, evaluate strategic locations that are important to NC State. In combining this data, identify regions that NC State will focus on developing programs, research and partnership. For instance, the Prague Institute is already a central European hub. Costa Rica is another location where a variety of faculty and students are engaged. Identify other areas such as China (Shanghai), Africa (Ghana), Australia, the Middle East, etc.

Once selected, each academic unit should develop programs, research, faculty exchanges within these areas. Not every unit may have a connection nor should all the connections be made with one partner in this area. Rather, these areas are regional hubs that NC State has identified as strategic to our institution and the world.

Action Items

- *Require each academic unit to create an inventory of international efforts on an annual or bi-annual basis.*
- *Identify Regional Hubs based on current points of engagement and strategic priorities of the University*

2. SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

As we all know, the experience of studying abroad has a profound impact on a student. Currently, approximately 20% of students at NC State study abroad. In May 2014, NC State signed a pledge with the Institute of International Education (IIE) to increase by 50% the number of students studying abroad by 2019. To make this happen the University must provide additional support. In looking at this opportunity, the committee recommends the following

Action Items

- *Require each academic unit to develop a strategic plan on how the unit will increase the number of students studying abroad. The Study Abroad Office can help students study abroad, but the initial efforts must start within the colleges with faculty and academic advisors engaged with students in the initial conversations.*
- *Each academic unit should have an individual serving as a Coordinator/Director of International Programs. This person would develop programs, market efforts and advise students at the college level. These individuals would partner with colleagues in the Study Abroad Office. Also, depending on the size of the college, this person may have other responsibilities. Several college already have such positions including the College of Design and the Poole College of Management, which has led to increases in the number of students studying abroad.*
- *Evaluate the staffing in the Study Abroad Office to ensure a 50% increase in students can be supported and make necessary increases.*
- *Provide additional resources for student scholarships to help all students study abroad and especially under represented students and first generation students who are the least likely to study abroad.*

3. SUPPORT FACULTY TO ENGAGE IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

If we are truly an internationalized university, the faculty at NC State must be engaged globally. There are many great examples of faculty who are doing research, extension and student involvement abroad. But, the numbers are small. The committee strongly believes this should change.

Action Items

- *Integrate international engagement (research, extension, and student involvement) into the tenure and promotion process. In many instances, international engagement is seen as a side activity and can be a distraction to a faculty member's promotion and tenure efforts. It should be an integral part of the process that is valued.*
- *Promote faculty exchanges with partner universities and international sabbaticals. This will require effort to develop exchanges and potential funding to support the extra costs a faculty member may have abroad. This would include a housing allowance for outgoing faculty from NC State and housing options for incoming faculty from partner schools*
- *Increase the funding for the Jackson Rigney Award which recognizes lifetime achievement for international efforts at NC State. The award is currently \$500 and should be funded at \$2,000 per year.*
- *Increase funding for Internationalization Seed Grants which is offered by CIP. Current funding is capped at \$5,000 per grant. The committee felt this should increase to at least \$10,000 to support new efforts by faculty.*

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION

Overall the committee had a very good year. We identified important topics/issues and worked towards developing related outcomes. This was especially true in the fall semester, but in the spring semester, attendance at meetings dropped significantly. With class schedule changes, several members of the committee were unable to attend. Other members simply did not attend. It is hard to manage attendance without additional support from the Provost's Office on monitoring attendance and dealing with uninvolved members.