Internationalization Task Force (ITF)

Synthesis of Meeting Minutes from September 25, 2012

Task Force Members in attendance:
Al Sweedler
Martha Ruel
Joe Shapiro
Sandra Cook
Cathy Garcia
Negar Davis
Teresa Cisneros-Donahue
Eniko Csomay
Linda Salem
Stuart Henry

I. Welcome and Introductions (20 minutes)
   a. Organization of Strategic Planning Process—Discussion of President Hirshman’s charge and the questions put before the ITF, as well as the President’s expectations for this process.
   b. Strategic Planning Task Forces/Work Groups—The committee discussed the difference between our task force and the others, given that we do not have working groups, and that in anticipation of this charge, a committee was created earlier this year by Dr. James Kitchen and Provost Nancy Marlin. As a result, the “Creating a Global University of the 21st Century Report" was submitted.
   c. Schedule/Timeline—Due dates for our recommendations and our meeting schedule.
   d. Handouts and Data consisted of copies of the Charge, the “Creating a Global University for the 21st Century Report," a list of task force members, a list of meeting dates and locations, and the agenda for this meeting.
   e. Questions and Prioritization: The question was asked if the Strategic Planning Committee would have their own open forum. Our group was of the opinion that they would not.

II. Creating a Global University of the 21st Century Report (25 minutes)
   a. Discussion: This report does not contain detailed recommendations, but takes a broad view of what constitutes a Global University. Having read the report, the ITF will build on the previous report with specific goals and recommendations. The ITF force committee agreed that much of this report is in line with their thinking although some felt that the mission statements in the report could be revised to emphasize the value of
an international experience. Stuart Henry was given the task of revising the statements to reflect the opinions of the task force.

III. Main Topic – Study Abroad (75 minutes)

a. Question 1: Should we consider additional initiatives to increase the number of students who are studying abroad?

   i. The ITF discussed the goal of increasing the participation rate of students having an international experience (study abroad) compared to the number of students graduating in a given year, from the current 20% to 30% in the next 5-10 years, beginning Fall 2013. The committee agreed that this was an achievable goal, recognizing:

      1. That direct international academic experience has intrinsic educational value beyond its substantive content

      2. That international academic experience is enhanced when embedded in the context of a multifaceted global university

      3. That achieving students’ global competencies requires measurable learning outcomes

b. Question 2: Are there specific groups of students who are studying abroad at low rates?

c. Question 3: Should we undertake specific initiatives to increase rates of studying abroad for any of these groups of students?

   i. The group briefly discussed the connection of our campus to study abroad in South America, or lack thereof. This is a topic that may require further discussion.

d. Question 4: Should we expand our study abroad programs and exchange partnerships to accomplish these objectives?

e. Question 5: As a long-term goal, should all undergraduate students be required to have an international experience?

   i. The ITF is in agreement that an international experience is of great value. Important to much of the committee was the need to define an international experience, and to assess the student outcomes upon their return from a study abroad experience.