

## **Advisory Committee on International Studies Meeting notes December 8**

**In attendance:** Marie Alice Arnold, Cori Filson, Deb Hall, Kate Leavitt, Leslie Mechem, Rajesh Nagarajan, Mary Beth O'Brien, Patricia Rubio

### **Agenda items:**

#### **1. Updates**

##### **National Student Exchange Update**

Cori and Marie Alice are currently researching NSE institutions of similar size regarding their involvement with NSE. Marie Alice and Cori are asking questions relating to enrollment history, goals for getting involved with NSE and if NSE has helped meet those goals. Peer institutions will also be contacted regarding their domestic exchange activity, in particular if working with NSE had been considered. OIP will also be working with more faculty to gain support for the NSE initiative. The deadline for the data gathering is the end of this term. A revised proposal will be prepared in early February for ACIS to vet. It will then be submitted to CEPP. OIP would like have a proposal to the faculty by the late March, early April meeting.

Cori asked the committee what they thought of joining as a pilot program? The committee had thought about this at the last meeting. The information gathered from the NSE and peer institutions would still be speculative information. A pilot program would allow us to gather information on the program within the Skidmore context. The committee agreed that would be an appropriate tack to take. A duration of three years as a pilot would be good. Cori will rework proposal as a pilot program.

##### **Affiliation Guidelines**

The committee approved the guidelines distributed earlier. Cori asked what would be the best way to disseminate them. It was determined that the best route would be through the Chairs and Directors list. OIP will also share the guidelines with faculty that have asked about adding new programs to their departments approved programs list.

#### **2. Intercultural and Global Understanding Task Force**

Cori reported on the Global Initiatives website. Although global initiatives hold an important place in the strategic plan there is no web presence about global Skidmore. Permission has been granted to create a web page portal to link the various international and intercultural activities at Skidmore. Meetings will be held over the spring semester to get the web page created.

The committee then discussed how institutional action plans get prioritized. The concern was that the current process does not allow for last minute opportunities or ideas. ACIS wants to take whatever action necessary to ensuring the web page get developed and launched by May/June. Cori explained that OIP had already developed a map of the website that includes the various pages that need to be linked. Mary Beth O'Brien stated that she had some title VI grant funding that could go to hiring a student with the technical abilities to develop the web page. She will be invited to the meetings with the other parties involved in the web page initiative.

ACIS wanted to make sure that there was some bridging going on between the task force and ACIS since ACIS activities would be of interest to the task force and vice versa. Cori will talk to Paty who sits on the task force to be sure to bring back task force items to ACIS.

Mary-Beth and Paty had further reviewed the information from Doug Reilly's web resources on study abroad re-entry. They would like to sponsor bringing him and Thomas D'Agustino to campus for a workshop. The workshop would be three hours – a one hour presentation followed by one hour of group work with one hour to address issues of implementation. Deb Hall will contact Doug Reilly regarding coming to campus.

Items from the website that they feel could be implemented at Skidmore are the Global Ambassador program, a program that would pair study abroad students with international students, a yearly workshop on doing research and internships abroad, a foreign service workshop, an annual journal with student perspectives, Global visions (photo contest), and how to make a physical space and "Away Café/Abroad View" somewhere for students to share experiences. They also recommend promoting more work with Academic Festival.

### **3. Site Evaluations**

The Committee felt the site evaluation workshop should not include too much talk. They recommended three hours: an overview of type of evaluation, logistics, expectations, reports review followed by a panel of faculty who have completed evaluations, followed by a question and answer session.

The workshop should take place in February since the earliest evaluations could take place during spring break with the second group in summer. Before the visit we will need to determine what visits and who will be doing them. Need tentative list by end of semester. A call for nominations will then have to go out to Chairs and Directors. ACIS will review the nominations.

### **4. Spring agenda**

The Office of International Programs would like ACIS to add to its spring agenda a review of OIP's mission statement. The mission statement of OIP was written during the creation of the office. Now that it has been functioning for over five years it would be a good idea to revisit the statement. The ramifications of domestic exchange need to be considered. The Office has also become more reactive. Work is thrown at the office with out time to evaluate or prioritize it against the office goals. A new statement would help establish the role of the office on campus.