

**Task Force on Global Education  
Student Development Subcommittee  
April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

*Present:* Tom DeStefano, Susan Johnstad, Harvey Charles, Rick Brandel, Sara Sullivan  
*Absent:* Otto Hansen, Jeane Olson

**Minutes:**

The group first chose Rick Brandel as the chair of the committee.

Harvey handed out some prepared talking points for the group. He also handed out a list of current international and study abroad student numbers and demographics.

**International Students**

Currently, half our international students are degree seeking students and the other half are exchange students. Harvey believes that the number of degree seeking students should be higher. Other institutions about the size of NAU have considerably more international students. Rick asked about the number of international students at those institutions, and Harvey said that they have about 700. This number is about 5% of the student population. We currently have about 450 international students. We should have more international students due to the following reasons: NAU's tuition is in the bottom 1/3 of all universities, we have a wide range of majors, and the cost of living is relatively low. The CIE has reconfigured its Admissions and Recruitment unit and it is already working to increase the number of degree seeking international students.

We also have small numbers of international graduate students. Some of the reasons for these numbers are that NAU is not a research institution and that the graduate assistantships are not competitive. Perhaps this group can make recommendations to improve these assistantships.

Also, the CIE has started a dual degree MBA program with Hong Kong Baptist University. In this program, Hong Kong students will spend 12 months studying at Hong Kong Baptist followed by 10 months studying at NAU. They will earn two MBA degrees. NAU students will also have this opportunity. With the current global focus on China, this program will significantly increase the marketability for NAU MBA students.

In addition, there is a graduate exchange program in the works with Murdoch University in Australia. This program will be sponsored by Criminology and Criminal Justice. Both NAU and Murdoch's Criminology program has a transnational focus. There is lots of room for development of graduate exchange programs.

Tom mentioned that if NAU has clear tuition packages of tuition assistance and graduate assistantships, then student will be more likely to come. Harvey said that these packages are controlled by the colleges, and Tom emphasized that these decision need to be made before the student arrive, not after. Susan asked about the timeline of graduate decisions.

Harvey said that it varies significantly from department to department. It also depends on when the Graduate College receives all the student's admission documents. Tom also said that it would be helpful to improve the marketing to international graduate students.

### **Study Abroad Students**

Harvey said that the current number of study abroad students is a poor reflection of what is possible. He hopes that the group can give a strong recommendation of a target number of study abroad students. Harvey would like to see 350 students studying abroad each semester. He would also like to double or triple the number of short term programs. He would also see more study abroad opportunities at institutions where NAU students can pay NAU tuition as opposed to programs managed by private study abroad program providers where tuition is usually significantly higher than NAU tuition. Tom asked about the average tuition at such programs, and Harvey said that it varies but can be between \$6,000-\$15,000.

Harvey would also like to see a \$1 student fee that would go toward study abroad scholarships. He would like to speak with the student government about this fee. Rick said that he helps mentor student government and that the new officers will be finalized next week.

Tom asked if the number of 350 is realistic. Harvey said that if we can also integrate study/internship/research abroad experience within the majors at NAU, that this will enhance the chances of students electing to have these experiences, especially if they realize that they can still graduate in four years. Rick mentioned that it would work great in English speaking countries. Harvey also mentioned that in many countries the language of instruction is in English even if the primary language of the country is not. Tom also mentioned that if students went on faculty led programs, they might be more willing to go abroad. He also added that global initiatives need to be in the strategic plan of the colleges. Harvey said that this idea could be a recommendation to the task force. He also said that when the departmental audit is complete, faculty will see what is already being done in terms of global initiatives. We are not starting from scratch. There is a lot that is already going on.

Tom mentioned that Sufei Lee of CCIEE has an opportunity available for NAU students to teach middle school in China. They would pay the student's room and board. The student would be responsible for airfare. However, the student would not receive credit, and would be resigned to take a semester off from their coursework. Harvey said that it would be similar to the Jet Program, where students teach English in Japan. He added that he wasn't sure if it would be feasible prior to graduation.

Rick added that we could do a degree audit and offer an international option within a major. Harvey said this idea could be a recommendation to the task force. Most students that go into the Modern Languages know they will study abroad. We could build study abroad into major programs.

Susan asked about study abroad scholarships. Harvey said that the Infrastructure and Development subcommittee is about to make their recommendations to the task force, and one of those recommendations is for funding for study abroad scholarships.

Rick asked when Harvey sees this group making their recommendations. Since the group is meeting so late, he foresees them making recommendations next fall semester. That timeframe will allow the group to get a student representative. Tom also added that it might be good to get a graduate student representative.