

Task Force on Global Education
Student Development Subcommittee
May 6th, 2008

Present: Rick Brandel, Tom DeStefano, Jeanne Olson, Harvey Charles, Sara Sullivan
Absent: Susan Johnstad

Minutes:

Rick said that he was not able to get a student representative for the subcommittee as of yet. He plans to talk with the new student body president Brad Busse. He says that the student government is looking at proposing different fees such as a green fee. He also hopes that the group can have a preliminary set of recommendations or an agenda ready for the next meeting in the fall. One preliminary recommendation is to target numbers for both international and study abroad student enrollment.

Harvey said that undergraduate international students have a lot of opportunities with scholarships to help pay for their schooling, but we need to have more competitive graduate student packages. The group can invite Ramona Mellot from the Graduate College to a meeting for her input. Right now packages cover about 50% of tuition with a plan to increase it to 75% if possible. Tom mentioned that he currently has two international graduate students in his department – one student from Poland and another from Singapore. He can ask one of them to sit on the committee.

In addition, the CIE is also working on cultivating international donors, especially donors from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. NAU has a large population of alumni from these countries. Harvey has been in contact with individuals from the Kuwaiti Cultural Mission. The Kuwaiti Cultural Mission would like to send 3500 Kuwaitis to study in the United States within the next year. The Kuwaitis would also like to start up a faculty exchange. Also, Harvey shared the idea that NAU should aim to identify an international figure each year to be awarded an honorary doctorate and who may be inspired to give generously in support of global education. Another idea mentioned about fundraising is working with retired faculty and encouraging current faculty to give back.

Rick said that some other recommendations could be working with student government to implement a student fee for study abroad. He also said that a recommendation could be the concept of an International House (an internationally focused living and learning community).

Tom asked if there are any problems with international student retention. Harvey said not in the empirical sense. It is not a serious problem. We have a large number of exchange students - many in Communications and HRM.

Rick said that from the group's conversations in the last two meetings, he will take come up with a preliminary list of recommendations for the next meeting in the fall.