

International Education Steering Committee Proposed Action Items

Every major American university is visibly attuned to global affairs. For a university, globalization is not a buzzword; it is a state of involvement. We require our professors to have international scholarly reputations. We are sending our students into a world of international networks. Cooperation, collaboration and mutual efforts are necessities in solving the most pressing problems facing the world today: war and ethnic conflict; international migration; militant fundamentalism; global warming; fair trade; energy security; poverty, malnutrition, social injustice, and the spread of disease. The University of Wyoming has great potential to increase the exchange of ideas, provide forums for policy debates, support inquiry, discovery and scholarship, and facilitate teaching that provides understanding about, and the means to act effectively to confront, global issues. Preparation for global citizenship: this is what our students want and need, and it is our obligation to provide it.

UW's international endeavors have made remarkable progress over the past decade. We have increased the number of our students who participate annually in study abroad from fewer than 40 students to more than 400. The number of international students studying at UW has increased by 30 percent over the last five years, and, for the first time in the past couple of decades, the number of international undergraduate students is on the rise, increasing by 80 percent in the past five years. We have strengthened the capacity of the International Programs Office by adding a staff person with expertise in the intricacies of securing and retaining appropriate visas for faculty and staff, and a staff person who has markedly decreased the hassle of course transfer for study abroad students. The number of International Studies majors has increased fourfold in the past decade (now nearly 170) and its degree program involves faculty in all of UW's colleges. And, this year, International Studies hired a Latin American specialist, the first hire with a job description that links him directly to the International Studies program. The International Students and Scholars office has significantly expanded our efforts to recruit and retain international students. And although our capabilities to offer English as a second language have decreased, in part, the decline has been ameliorated by the establishment of our linkage with the ELS Language Centers. Contributing to our progress has been the superb working relationships that have developed among the directors of the various international programs.

The Cheney endowment has and will provide students with considerably greater support for study abroad than we possibly could offer in the past, and the Cheney International Center will be an inviting environment for both American and international students. It facilitates the goal set forth in *Moving Forward III* of having all international units at UW located in a common setting, thus facilitating coordination and planning, and making visible the many ways UW is internationally engaged. The Cheney Center invites bold thinking about the future possibilities for enhancing in significant ways opportunities for our students and faculty to be more internationally involved.

Desiring to build upon this forward momentum, the International Education Steering Committee recommends that the following action items be supported by the University's next academic plan.

Action Item 1: Repeated national assessments of students participating in study abroad opportunities show that this experience increases understanding of different cultures, expands an appreciation of the place of the United States in the world, enhances the ability to communicate in a foreign language and builds maturity and self-confidence. By December 2008, the International Education Steering Committee will craft a statement of specific educational objectives for our study abroad programs. Upon the approval of the Academic Vice President, it will be the task of the International Programs Office, in cooperation with the University's colleges, to assess whether these goals are being met.

Action Item 2: According to the results from the 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement and the University of Wyoming Student Satisfaction survey, 12 percent of UW seniors indicated they had participated in study abroad, a percentage that has more than doubled over the past decade; therefore, a realistic University goal should be to increase the percentage of those studying abroad to 20 percent.

Action Item 3: One of the primary reasons that the number of students participating in study abroad has increased so dramatically in recent years is the funding for study abroad courses provided by the Summer School's Innovative course program. But this program was not meant to provide on-going support for successful study abroad courses. To continue progress we must identify mechanisms to institutionalize these courses. Departments should be encouraged to permit faculty to teach these courses as part of a normal load, however, study abroad courses are more expensive than Wyoming based courses; therefore a budgetary supplement must be identified.

Action Item 4: Coordinated by the International Programs Office (IPO), we will designate strategic partners among international universities and institutionalize linkages with these universities to facilitate student and faculty exchange and research cooperation. Focusing upon this designated set of universities promises to be the most effective means to amplify and improve international partnerships.

Action Item 5: Colleges will appoint faculty and staff who can provide students with advice on study abroad. These advisors will be formally appointed by each college and listed on the relevant web site and in the University catalog. The Director of International Programs will be charged with keeping the college advisors informed of study abroad opportunities and processes. Equally important, if we are to continue to progress, we must build sufficient advising capacity in the International Programs Office to meet the demand of students wishing to study abroad. The IPO is the main source of advising for study abroad students. Its capacity to serve this role, one that is quite often technical, must be maintained. If, as we project, the number of study abroad students continues to increase, we must find a way to maintain the quality of advising currently available in the IPO.

Action Item 6: The IPO's current endowment is approximately \$2.5 million. Working with appropriate faculty and staff, it will be the goal of the Director of the International Programs

office to double the endowment support for study abroad students by 2014. The Cheney endowment is a wonderful foundation upon which we should be able to build a significant fund to support student study abroad.

Action Item 7: International teaching and research can markedly enhance faculty development. Therefore, the International Education Steering Committee will seek means to increase faculty international experience. The Committee will identify mechanisms which would encourage faculty exchange with international universities. To this end, by 2014 we will seek to double the funds available for faculty travel abroad available through the International Programs Office's competitive grant program and the IPO will be asked to reassess the criteria for funding international travel. In addition, several colleges currently offer funding for faculty activities abroad. They will be encouraged to continue and expand these offerings. Other colleges will be asked to establish such funding.

Action Item 8: In recent years, the number of international faculty has increased significantly and this trend is likely to continue. A more internationally diverse faculty presents great benefits to our students. But to fully profit from our more multinational faculty we must better orient our students. This instruction may take place during student orientation or through the required I courses.

Action Item 9: To ensure visibility and consistency in offerings, the Director of International Studies will maintain a listing of courses with significant international content and post the schedule on the University's web site. It will be the responsibility of the Director to monitor the frequency of offerings and determine whether offerings are sufficient to meet University Studies and major demands. The Director will regularly report upon sufficiency of course offerings to the Director of International Programs, the International Education Steering Committee, the Academic Vice President and the academic deans.

Action Item 10: Working with the International Studies Committee, it must be the responsibility of the Director of International Studies to advocate for the hiring of faculty with international expertise in sufficient numbers to meet University Studies and major course needs. Because these faculty are essential to meeting the mission of internationalization at UW, the International Education Steering Committee will recommend positions necessary to meet the University's international goals.

Action Item 11: As the Cheney International Center becomes reality, a promising complement would be the creation of a Global Affairs Institute. Such an Institute could encourage and provide support for international initiatives, e.g. a speaker series, course development, publications, symposia, research collaboration, and provide a supportive environment for visiting international scholars and interdisciplinary learning communities. The International Education Steering Committee will assess the viability of a Global Affairs Institute and by the end of the first year of Plan III, recommend to the Vice President for Academic Affairs whether such an Institute should be established.

Action Item 12: International students increase the quality of UW education by increasing diversity on-campus. Moreover, providing UW educational opportunity for international students is inherently beneficial to them, and, in addition, broadens their understanding of

American culture. Currently, about 535 international students are enrolled at UW. By 2014, it is our goal to increase the number of international students to 700. This will require additional resources for international student recruitment including someone whose major responsibility is devoted to this task. Building and enhancing cooperation with the state's community colleges and the University community will be essential in this endeavor as will the integration of the ELS Language Centers.

Action Item 13: The International Students and Scholars Office will build upon its substantial accomplishments in retaining international students. The Cheney International Center will serve as a focal point for these efforts, and the Office will actively prepare UW staff and faculty to support international students in the University and Laramie community.

Action Item 14: We must better coordinate and expand our capacity to deliver appropriate English-as-a-second-language instruction. To this end, the University should appoint a director of ESL, from within current UW faculty, who will be charged with the responsibility of identifying and coordinating ESL resources. This charge will include the creation of an informed community with ESL interest (including the ELS Language Center). The establishment and maintenance of a web site will be central to this responsibility. Moreover, the University currently lacks sufficient personnel to deliver ESL instruction. One person should be hired during the coming planning cycle to provide instruction in the teaching of English as a second (ESL) language and to perspective teachers as well as to English-language learners. Such a faculty member may be housed in the College of Education or College of Arts and Sciences depending upon disciplinary interest and expertise.

Action Item 15: Consistent with the goals of the Hathaway Scholarship requirements, the University, in conjunction with the state's high schools, will establish a placement process which will strongly encourage students to (1) acquire basic second-language skills through their study of a foreign language in high school and (2) be prepared to enroll in third- or fourth-semester language study at the university level. It is essential that the Department of Modern and Classical Languages significantly increase its efforts to articulate expectations to the state's high schools.

Action Item 16: Success in many careers-- from business to health care to education-- is enhanced by competence in a language other than English. Therefore, the University should consider a foreign language requirement for admission. Such a requirement would be consistent with Hathaway requirements. In addition, the International Education Steering Committee will ask that each UW college encourage foreign language study and evaluate curricular requirements that would make such study possible.

Action Item 17: To enhance coordination of University internationalization, a committee composed of the directors of International Studies, International Students and Scholars, English as a Second Language and the International Programs Office will be formally established and chaired by the Director of the International Programs Office. The sharing of information will be the goal of this committee and it should meet at least once a month—more frequently if needed. At least twice a year, the Director of IPO should provide the University Executive Committee with a status report on UW's international endeavors.

Action Item 18: Because many of the questions involving international connections concern fiscal matters and research questions, an Associate Vice President from the Division of Administration and the Division of Research should be included as members of the International Education Steering Committee.

Action Item 19: The chair of the International Education Steering Committee should provide the Vice President of Academic Affairs with a year-end report on international endeavors and progress in meeting these action items.