

Work Group--Summary of Meetings (Spring, 2008)

Overview: To continue the initiatives advanced by the Task Force on Global Citizenship, the Work Group met seven times over the spring semester. Membership in the work group came from administrators (a), classified staff (cs), faculty (f), and students (s): Daniel Cano (f), Guido Davis Del Piccolo (f), Gordon Dossett (f), Nancy Grass Hemmert (f), Janet Harclerode (f), Peggy Kravitz (f), Erica LeBlanc (a), Brandon Lewis (f), Georgia Lorenz (a), Laurie McQuay-Peninger (a), Miriam Mohr (s), Pete Morris (f); Teresa Morris (cs), Dawn Murphy (a), Eric Oifer (f), Tricia Ramos (a), Teresita Rodriguez (a), Alexandria Rosales (a), Bernie Rosenloecher (cs), Toni Trives (f), and Sal Veas (f).

Twelve guests participated in the discussions: Greg Brown (a), Chito Cajayon (a), Karin Costello (f), Frank Dawson (f), Craig Hammond (f), Joy Marinos-Hervé (s), Elena Kuzmicheva (s), Joann Ortiz (a), Melody Overstreet (s), Jim Urmston (f), Natasha Vokhshoori (s) and Bruce Young (f).

An update of actions related to the task force's 11 recommendations follows.

1. Create a Global Work Group

We did this.

2. Create Visible Signs of our Commitment to Global Citizenship

To generate interest and ideas for the new Pico Front of the campus, Pete Morris suggested a design charrette, a brainstorming technique that would draw on the work of campus teams. We explored holding a charrette on opening day, but determined that a Friday early in the fall would work better. Although the charrette will not necessarily result in a particular idea being accepted, the Work Group hoped that the architectural firm's final design would reflect the college's commitment to global citizenship.

Vinyl flags (rather than actual ones) might be a way to keep the costs down and reflect the home countries of our student population. Perhaps these vinyl flags could be displayed on or between lampposts.

The Work Group voiced support for a student-proposed organic garden.

The Work Group proposed a speaker series for spring, 2009 entitled Food for Thought, Thoughts on Food. On June 5 all faculty received an email inviting proposals for a speaker series featuring experts from our campus community, each proposed talk tied to an aspect of food from a particular country or region. The talks would be during the activity hour and would incorporate food in some way. We plan to choose the four speakers and their topics and publicize them in time for professors to incorporate them into their classes for spring, if they choose.

3. Implement a Global Citizenship A.A. Degree Requirement for Fall 2008

The Academic Senate passed the requirement on April 29 and the Board of Trustees approved of the change at its June 9 meeting-- in time for it to be implemented in fall, 2008.

Further, Guido Davis Del Piccolo has sought input and begun drafting a proposal for an A.A. degree in global studies, featuring at least one new global studies course, which could be offered on campus and on study abroad programs.

4. Integrate the International Students More Fully Into Social and Academic Aspects of SMC

The Work Group heard reports from international students as well as the Acting Associate Dean of International Education, Alex Rosales. The reports reaffirmed the problem. Janet Harclerode distributed a list of helpful tips (presented by international students at the spring staff development day). This list was distributed to department chairs, for distribution to their departments. Further, Janet is creating a cohort of faculty who will explore successful approaches of integrating international students in classes.

5. Improve Facilities for International Students

The Work Group took no specific action on this recommendation. However, it has been determined that the International Education Center will be located in the new Student Services building, and there is a possibility with the passage of a new bond that ESL could eventually move into Drescher Hall.

6. Create a Latin American Education Program

Brandon Lewis worked closely with Gordon Dossett to propose a program based in Belize. The program, scheduled to start in winter, 2009 features two instructors from different disciplines offering courses that meet different parts of the IGETC pattern. Further, to provide more access, course offerings are scheduled on a short term, enabling students to take two classes in eight weeks—or to stay for the full term and take up to four courses. Service learning projects will be offered for the spring break—and each eight week term will include travel (to Mexico and to Guatemala) tied to the courses. Over eighty faculty members have expressed interest in participating in the Latin American Education program.

Presentations by Guido Davis Del Piccolo (on service learning) and Frank Dawson and Nancy Grass Hemmert (on the program to South Africa in winter 2008) reaffirmed the Task Force's preference for programs in which students engaged deeply with the local culture.

Brandon is exploring faculty exchanges—with Galen University and other institutions. In addition, a university in Brazil (Unifae Centro Univeritario Franciscano) has made a preliminary offer to provide scholarships for SMC students to attend. Finally, Brandon is proposing a program to Argentina in summer 2009.

7. Increase Study Abroad Opportunities

To draw under-represented, first-generation students, we need to publicize ways for our students to pay for study abroad programs. The Gilman Federal Scholarship is an excellent start: to apply, students need to receive a Pell Grant and to meet a deadline of October 7, 2008. Further, the Foundation, Associated Students and the Global Citizenship fund are possible sources for scholarships. Setting up scholarships through these should be explored in fall. Perhaps a member of Adelante or Black Collegians could be awarded a scholarship to go on a program.

If the college plans to increase study abroad programs, it needs a clear process for proposing and approving programs. Toward that end, Alex Rosales, Al DeSalles, Teresita Rodriguez, Stacy Neal (from financial aid), Georgia Lorenz and Gordon Dossett met and agreed that proposals should have two basic phases: consideration first from an academic point of view and then from a logistical one (arranging housing, transportation, an agency, etc.). We hope to have a detailed process and timeline by fall.

8. Create a Sustainable Campus

The charrette and the organic garden (discussed in recommendation #2 above) relate to this idea.

9. Re-establish the Center for International Business Education and Studies (CIBES)

Bruce Young, the founder of the original CIBES at SMC, and Sal Veas, who participated, presented an overview of the original program—which included student internships, a series of breakfast meetings for local business leaders, and a speaker series (One talk featured David E. Garten, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade and drew 600 people.) From Chito Cajayon and Tricia Ramos, the Work Group learned that workforce development is developing a number of international projects, including a tour of China for local small business leaders seeking contacts. Several members of the group expressed concerns that the college might be matching local businesses to sweat shops; however, we all thought that future tours might provide a setting for students to meet with some of those traveling, to hear their perspectives. While Chito and Tricia work with businesses and government agencies, they nonetheless welcome the chance to engage our students if possible. To draw in professors—especially from business—however, is a challenge, given their workloads and the scope of CIBES.

10. Promote Participation in the Fulbright Exchange Program and Encourage Individual Faculty Exchanges

Karin Costello, who had a Fulbright to Cyprus, emailed faculty regarding international experiences. Responses showed that our faculty has served in the Peace Corps, worked for NGO's and received Fulbright awards. Karin suggested that the Corsair profile Peace Corps participants, for example, and that a roster organized according to experiences might help provide speakers for the community and classroom. Further a panel of Peace Corps or Fulbright participants might present accounts of their experiences to the campus. The Professional Development Committee might explore ways of promoting Fulbrights.

As a result of Karin's preliminary survey, members of the Work Group felt that the Work Group and the International Education Center would benefit from a searchable database. A student from Turkey could be matched a faculty mentor with experience in the country; those establishing a study abroad program in Morocco (for example) could search for faculty and staff with experience there. The group also thought that such a data base might be helpful for students, doing research. A subsequent meeting, with Caroline Sheldon, Waleed Nasr, and Teresita Rodriguez, however, ruled out that possibility at least temporarily—because of privacy concerns. Gordon Dossett will work with Caroline and leaders from the International Education Center to create a survey that can be disseminated early in the fall.

11. Use Southern California as a Learning Laboratory for SMC Students

Bill Selby conducted his excursion to culturally significant sites in Los Angeles, an excursion supported by the global initiative fund. The Work Group this spring did not act on this recommendation.