

**University Senate
International Affairs Committee
November 4, 2015
TIME: 3:30-5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: 315 Strong Hall**

The FY-16 International Affairs Committee convened at 3:30 p.m. in 315 Strong Hall, Professor **Geraldo Sousa**, Chair, presiding. Members present were **Alexis McKinley Jones**, Study Abroad; **Melissa Birch**, Business; **Nanyi Deng**, Student and Vice Chair; **Saharat Peampongsant**, student; and ex-officio committee member, **Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco**, Associate Vice Provost, International Programs.

Also in attendance were: **Amy Neufeld**, Managing Director, KUAAP and **Roberta Pokphanh**, Academic Director, KUAAP.

The committee reviewed the standing charges: 1) Hear reports on strategic planning and activities from IP units, suggest changes or new directions, and facilitate collaboration among faculty and administrative units; 2) Review and provide input on new policies that relate to international research and teaching; and 3) Identify concerns or issues for discussion and action related to KU's international affairs from students, faculty, and staff.

Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco gave a report on International Programs (IP), stating that IP is at a stable, mature point. Numbers are up for international students, study abroad, and applications. The AAP program was implemented with interim staff, but they now have a full time, permanent staff in place. With the hiring of a new director for the AEC, the international units are at full staff. Deborah Osborne will begin in January as the Director of the AEC, coming from Oklahoma State.

Melissa asked about future prospects for funding of international programs? Susan stated that there has been a couple million in scholarship funds, for both outgoing study abroad and incoming international students. She has spent some time getting together with alums and pursuing connections. Funding is currently stable, but IP will likely take a cut in funding from the state this fiscal year.

Susan also gave a report for the Applied English Center, as Joe Potts is currently traveling. The AEC has switched from a five skills base to a two-course core. They are also switching to a content-based curriculum. The goal is to develop an English for academic courses curriculum. The AEC streamlined its proficiency testing. They used to do a three and a half hour proficiency test at the end of every semester. Now it's a one-hour project, which has provided much relief to students and faculty.

The AEC staff have also been working with KU IT to update a very old database. This has been a four-year project. More administrative support has been added for the teaching

staff of 64 instructors. Two instructors were promoted to assistant directors. There are currently 400 students in the AEC, 100 of which are pre-AAP. This is slightly less than the previous year. Geraldo asked if the AEC is self-supporting. Susan stated that its income supports the AEC, with additional money providing some support to other IP units.

The committee focused much of the meeting on the specific charge: Monitor the KU Academic Accelerator Program and the partnership between KU and Shorelight. Collect data on the success of students in the program and share specific data with SenEx. Report to SenEx by December 1, 2015. The committee discussed what type of data to collect, possibly academic information and retention stats. Since the program is still relatively new, there is no long-range data at this point.

Amy Neufeld, Managing Director, and Roberta Pokphanh, Academic Director, gave a report on the Academic Accelerator Program. A town hall meeting was held in October to share with the campus how the program is doing now that it is into its second year. There will be two more town hall meetings, one in November and the other in early December. They shared statistics about the students in the first cohort. They are predominately male, generally traditional college-aged students, and have good high school GPAs. There were 57 students in the initial group, with 88% retention, which is exactly where they expected it to be. Last spring, the cohort was 51 students and 29 students started in the summer. These numbers are pretty consistent with the goals that were set for the program.

Students who are least prepared in English start at the AEC in the pre-AAP. After reaching Level 4, they move into the AAP. Students who are already at Level 4, start in the AAP for a one-year program and then advance into the university. Students with a high English level also have option to start directly as a university student.

The committee talked further about the SenEx report. Geraldo suggested something along the lines of the handout that Amy and Roberta shared, which highlighted student profiles, areas of study, progression information, and ways to enter the university. The committee would also like to include GPA after arrival. Susan suggested that she and Amy could work on an outline tomorrow at their regular meeting.

In new business, Melissa suggested future reports from John Younger, Institute of International Affairs, Marc Greenburg, School of Languages and Literatures.

The next meeting has not yet been scheduled. The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.