

**Global Education Initiative Forum**  
Thursday, January 10, 2008, 3:30 – 4:30 pm  
Upper Gwinn

Approximately 60 people in attendance.

Les welcomes everyone and gives an introduction to the meeting.

- We will panel a taskforce on Global Education.
- Briefly outlines the planning document handout.
- There will be a link on the OAA webpage soon.
- Overall objectives.
- Raises question of global education-- we're behind others, but we can learn from them.

What do we mean by global education? How do we deliver it and structure it?

- May include on campus curriculum, graduate and undergraduate level.
- Co-curriculum (Residence life, SPRINT and so on).
- A lot of interest and controversy around study abroad (in the media).

There are grand questions – purposes and outcomes. And there are practical issues, including structures and expenses.

We have a wonderful study abroad program, but there are problems and challenges to address.

- Recommendation from NWCCU regarding study abroad.

*Luke Reinsma:* Requests more information regarding the accreditation concerns.

Their concerns are information, advising and transferring of credits.

- How do we make this information more available to students?
- Currently, students don't know where to begin.
- NWCCU wants us to make our policies clearer and more easily available to students.
- Instead of sending students in many different directions, we need a central office where they can find all of the information they need.

*Ruth Adams:* It comes down to when a student wants to get credit from somewhere else, knowing if it will transfer, and knowing what to do. This recommendation from NWCCU won't be difficult to address. We just need to better organize what we already have.

*Robert Baah:* Do we have a definition for global education??

Les responds, explaining that we need to clarify and come up with a definition on global education.

*Chris Sink:* Is there a publication that says, these are the programs we offer?

Les responds, explaining that SPU has a webpage, and it does include graduate and undergraduate levels.

*Ruth Adams* adds that it's exhaustive of what we have to offer, but is buried deep.

*Doug Durasoff*: The question is much more than just study abroad. We need to better position ourselves, and include languages, programs we already have on campus, exchange students at SPU, ACE students, and so on. We do have a lot to offer that we just need to make visible and organized.

*Shannon Scott*: Asks if the list of five on the handout (Global Initiative Planning Document) are in order of importance?? There is a lot of emphasis on the 200 abroad.

Note: The five issues the President asked the taskforce to address from the handout:

1. Increasing the number of SPU students doing study abroad – is it possible to have 200 abroad each quarter?
2. Are there intentional ways to address Islam?
3. Can we offer studies in Chinese and Arabic languages?
4. Can we cultivate partnerships with the Free Methodists across the globe?
5. How can we capitalize on the world-wide web for global education?

Les responds that it is a list of particular thoughts. He adds that barely one percent of US students go abroad. We currently have 72 abroad.

*Al Erisman*: Refers to the second paragraph from bottom on the handout:

“We are fully aware that the world is torn by suffering, poverty, violence and racial and ethnic divisions. Our mission calls us to understand and address these issues. We seek to do so grounded in the hope-filled Gospel of Jesus Christ and informed by rigorous and vital learning in all disciplines.”

If we addressed all five issues would we accomplish what's stated in this paragraph? No. We first need to think about what we want to accomplish, and then start programs.

Les agrees and reminds everyone not to focus solely on the list of five.

Les then requests that faculty break into small groups to discuss key concepts and share ideas on study abroad and global education.

Groups sessions break out for 10-15 minutes, and Les continues the conversation. Questions and comments from faculty as follows.

- *Kathy Stetz*:  
How do faculty perceive development?  
What are the core values that guide us?  
We need to share model programs.

Figure out what were doing, and own it.  
How do we better integrate our current international students??

- *Ruth Ediger:*  
 We need to create a Center for Global Education, with a study abroad office.  
 Require cross cultural experience (make is a requirement similar to UCOR, etc.).  
 How do we cultivate empathy with the under privileged and create competencies along with that and not leave anything out?
- *Chris Chaney:*  
 Framing global education.  
 Interconnectedness (possibly offer a literature class, or ancient modern middle east...)  
 More than just study abroad.  
 Create different classes framing global education.  
 Revenue neutral study abroad (for example, the cost of trip \$10,000 but we charge \$13,500)
  - Indirect costs
  - Have it cost what it costs
  - Subsidize
- *Michelle Beauclair:*  
 Administrative costs
  - Students required to pay certain amount (25 percent of tuition) on top of airfare, etc.
  - Numbers be brought down; more reasonable?
  - Financial aid?
  - We need to understand the financing.
- *Margaret Diddams:*  
 Service learning and research programs abroad.  
 Possibilities to partner with SPRINT so that it is learning-oriented.  
 Change curriculum now (for example, in the psychology department, it's required to address global issues in every curriculum).  
 Graduate degree in International Crisis (such as University of... South Dakota(?))?  
 Do we know what other countries that our students are visiting require?  
 Can we set ourselves up to bring more international students here?  
 Globalization in our own back yard (for example, Yakima Valley, Rainier Valley).  
 Students need to know more about their own cultures.
- *Bob Weathers:*  
 Identify issues we need to address:
  - Definition
  - Mission
  - Staffing
  - Curriculum
  - Venues where education might take place

Connecting with villages and small towns  
Connect globally

- *Jack Levison:*  
It is difficult to designate global programs in major  
    UFoundations and USEM as global?? (travel)
- *Susan Gallagher:* – UCOR 2000 is a global course.
- *Jacqui Smith Bates:*  
How we debrief the experience when they return is just as important.  
    Sense of vocation and calling.

Les adds identity and racial identity (provides an example of African American student adopted to a white family).

How to deal with experiences once they're back??  
How do their travels affect them?

- *Kathryn Bartholomew:*  
Equally important to prepare students to go and learn.

Les mentions a recent NY Times article on the Peace Corps (from Kathryn Bartholomew).

- *Robert Baah:*  
We want SPU's name to be good and leave a good impression.  
    Engagement that we want at SPU.  
    Organize this institution and look into Africa (not only Europe, Asia, etc.).  
    We should be going to Africa every quarter.

- *Al Erisman:*  
Global is a word that isn't very specific; it could mean Canada.  
    How do we break it down?  
    Refers to The Bottom Billion, by Paul Collier, a book on 58 countries that have regressed.  
    Component of our program must include one of these countries.  
    God loves the whole world but especially those suffering, which is why it's vital to visit one of the 58 countries.

- *Kevin Neuhauser:*  
Curriculum is what helps students think about vocation and their purpose in life.  
    We want students to take away the most out of their travels abroad; otherwise it's a wasted experience.

- *Bob Weathers:*  
More to created order than just people in cultures.

- *Doug Downing:*
  - Part of cross cultural education.
  - Regional center – and what criteria to figure out what regions to focus on?
  - Need the support of a central office
  - Living out the gospel
  - Learning languages

Les wraps up the forum and asks faculty to contact him if they're interested in participating in Global Education throughout the year. We're in the process of developing and organizing a taskforce.

Thank you for attending.