

July 1, 2002

Taskforce on Reflecting and Expanding a Global Perspective
Phase One Report: July 1, 2002

Executive Summary

Full Report posted on http://www.iusb.edu/~cdc/global_perspective.htm

Role of Taskforce on Reflecting and Expanding a Global Perspective

The role of the Task Force on Reflecting and Expanding a Global Perspective is to oversee the development of that part of the campus strategic plan that addresses the nurturing of a global perspective in the campus community. Toward that end, the taskforce set out to draft a proposal that will initiate a campus wide discussion on the extent and role of a global perspective in the mission of the campus and how it can be fostered. After input from the various constituencies in the fall, the task force will prepare a strategic plan to present to the Campus Directions Committee for incorporation into the larger campus plan.

The taskforce has identified five crucial areas that we want the campus community to consider as ways to enhance the international perspective of our students. First, we want to discuss how we might internationalize the curriculum to maximize student's exposure to the world beyond the U.S. and give every student opportunities to gain a global perspective on issues. Second, in addition to the curricular perspective, we want to engage the campus community in a discussion about expanding student opportunities to travel and study abroad. Third, we think that it is crucial to discuss and consider the role of international students on campus and how to make our campus experience an attractive one for those students. Fourth, we want to explore ways for the campus to support faculty exchanges with institutions abroad. Finally, we want to encourage the campus community to consider ways that we can foster international understanding in the community. We will also need to identify with the faculty those goals, objectives and activities that will move the campus toward providing an international perspective for our students. The taskforce must then identify the resources that would be needed to accomplish each of the aforementioned and the individuals and position that would be central in implementing them.

It is the goal of the taskforce to initiate a faculty discussion surrounding the role of the international perspective in academic experience of students and faculty. During the fall semester, we hope to circulate a proposal to the campus community for discussion in departments, schools and colleges. After a suitable time, we would then seek input, criticism, and suggestions for additions and modification to the discussion document.

The major obstacles to further developing an international perspective on campus depend on the goals. In internationalizing the curriculum, the major difficulty will be competing demands for time and coverage of topics. There are many worthy goals to be addressed

in the curriculum and an international perspective will be one of those competing although the identification of this priority by the campus will make the case easier. For the other areas we have identified above the obstacles are likely to be resources. Encouraging study abroad, making the campus more attractive to international student, and encouraging faculty exchanges will all require that resources be generated. Here too there will be competition for those resources. Lastly, fostering an international perspective will require developing a campus culture in which faculty members will consider this as part of what we do.

Task Force Members

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