

## **International Education Committee Report to the Senate for 2018-2019**

Submitted by Dr. Matt Ciscel, Chair  
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Members: Michael Wizevich, Catherine Kurkjian, Sinead Ruane, Vivian Martin, Matthew Ciscel, Shelly Jones, Mary Ann Mahony, Leyla Zidani-Eroglu, Tracey Kittoe (student), Victoria Shingleton (student), Mathew Foust (IS Program Director), Momar Ndiaye and Erin Beecher (CIE, non-voting)

The committee worked on a number of issues related to internationalization of the university during the 2018-2019 academic year:

### **1. Faculty Opportunities to Lead Courses Abroad**

The committee received regular reports from the CIE about course abroad enrollments and applications for next year at each meeting. Traditionally, these have been the bread-and-butter of efforts to offer international experiences to CCSU students. There were several discussions of the challenges related to the reduction of available funds for student scholarships in these programs. In the October meeting, we had a guest from the fundraising office on campus to talk about ways that departments, faculty, or the CIE could elicit donations from alumni and other community contacts. Course enrollments continued to be lower than in recent years because of the growing cost burden on students for these experiences, which the committee recognizes as a difficult challenge. At the same time, the CIE reports increasing numbers of CCSU students applying to study abroad on longer term programs (semester or year abroad programs).

On March 7, the committee collaborated with the CIE to hold a workshop for faculty about how to propose and run a successful course abroad. Drs. Resetarits and Martin presented details from their many experiences, including advice for novice and experienced faculty in this area, to a group of about twenty faculty members. By the April deadline for applications to lead courses abroad next academic year, there were several new and returning programs proposed.

### **2. Pathway Programs and the Intensive English Language Program (IELP)**

The IEC Chair has worked closely in the past with the various directors of the Intensive English Language Program, which has been in decline in recent years, particularly being without a director since summer 2018. This fall semester, the IEC passed a resolution asking the Provost and CIE Director to put resources toward the IELP in order to bolster it and to move it toward accreditation. These discussions led to a broader discussion of academic Pathway Programs and how best to develop these to bolster both the IELP and internationalization of academic programs across campus. A Pathway Program can take many forms, but generally it provides international students without sufficient proficiency in English a pathway into specific academic programs while still completing intensive English courses. The committee has discussed details of possible such programs a couple of times during the spring semester. Work on this is being guided by Dr. Ndiaye (CIE Director) and will continue into the next academic year.

### 3. International Students, Scholars, and Partnerships

The CIE reported on new partnerships with universities abroad and on the numbers of international students and scholars visiting during the current academic year. There was little discussion in the committee, but there remains potential for growth with greater attention to these areas.

### 4. International Grant for East Asia (Hyundai)

A sub-committee of this committee (Kurkjian, Wizevich, and Ciscel) read and evaluated applications in November for the International Travel Grant to East Asia that is administered by the CIE (Beecher). A majority of the applicants received some funding.

### 5. Academic Programs with an International Focus or Component

The co-director of the interdisciplinary International (and Area) Studies Program (Foust) gave regular reports on the activities and work of this program. Challenges remain as far as resources and attracting faculty to participate. Opportunities for internationalization of programs across campus remain. One concrete initiative that the committee discussed this year was the idea of a clearinghouse or sub-committee in the IEC to organize a more regular speaker series focused on international topics. Dr. Ndiaye in the CIE offered to contribute some funds toward such a series. Drs. Mahony and Zidani-Eroglu volunteered in April to start organizing this for the next academic year.

Similarly, there was discussion in spring semester of the idea of creating a new database of faculty specializations and interests in the area of international studies. The Chair agreed to look into putting together a survey and database of this sort. Both the lecture series and database initiatives came late to the discussion this year and should be continued and strengthened in the coming academic year.