

## **International Education Committee**

### **Report to the Senate for 2019-2020**

Submitted by Dr. Matt Ciscel, Chair, on April 30, 2020

Committee Members: Helena Adams, Sourav Chakraborty, Matthew Ciscel, Wangari Gichiru, Mary Ann Mahony, Vivian Martin, Michael Wizevich, Leyla Zidani-Eroglu, Mathew Foust (IS Program Director), Momar Ndiaye and Erin Beecher (CIE, non-voting)

The committee worked on several issues related to internationalization of the university during the 2019-2020 academic year:

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

The committee received regular reports from the CIE about course abroad enrollments and applications at each meeting. Traditionally, these have been the bread-and-butter of efforts to offer international experiences to CCSU students. Course abroad offerings and enrollments grew a bit over the previous year until the global pandemic forced the cancellation of all courses abroad from spring break through summer. At the same time, the CIE reported solid numbers of CCSU students studying abroad on longer term programs (semester or year abroad programs). Assessing how best to get these programs safely functioning again after the pandemic is recognized as a prime goal for the committee over the next year.

On March 11, just before the campus was closed, the committee collaborated with the CIE to hold a workshop for faculty about how to propose and run a successful course abroad. Drs. Gigliotti and Leonidas presented details from their experiences, including advice for novice and experienced faculty in this area. While the CIE has dealt with other issues related to the status and safety of international students and CCSU students abroad, it is unclear how many courses abroad have been proposed for next year or whether they will be possible in this environment.

#### **2. Pathway Program Plan 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 and challenged by a changing national and global environment for such programs. After a task force worked on outlining a possible Pathway Program for International Students over the summer of 2019 (members were Ciscel, Liu, Mahony, Stookey, Wang, and Zidani-Eroglu, plus representatives from the CIE), the IEC took up and refined the proposal during Fall Semester. The detailed proposal recommends strengthening the existing IELP by identifying a director who would have time to improve curricula and programming, by launching a limited trial run of an academic Pathway for limited English proficient international students in five academic programs, and working toward a cohesive marketing and academic strategy to broaden this Pathway option. The Director of the CIE and the IEC Chair met twice

during this year with the Provost to discuss and revise plans for this Pathway Program. When the campus was closed, no decisive steps had been taken to implement the plan for a Pathway Program. Work on this will continue into the next academic year, pending the situation with the pandemic.

### 3. International Lecture Series

The CIE reported in Fall that it has funds available for an international lecture series. A sub-committee was formed (Chakraborty, Wizevich, and Zidani-Eroglu) to launch the lecture series in Spring and Fall 2020. Climate change was chosen as the first topic, and possible speakers were identified and contacted. There were also discussions with the members of the International Studies interdisciplinary program (in CLASS) to collaborate on putting this speaker series together. Unfortunately, the pandemic and the closure of campus intervened, so the lecture series has not been launched. The IEC hopes to take up this initiative again as soon as it is safe to do so.

### 4. Faculty International Travel Research Grant (Hyundai)

A sub-committee of this committee (Martin, Wizevich, and Ciscel) read and evaluated applications in November for the International Travel Grant (focused on East Asia) that is administered by the CIE (Beecher). Most of the applicants (7 out of 10) received some funding. Sadly, all of the funded activities were canceled, due to the pandemic.

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

The co-director of the interdisciplinary International Studies Program (Foust) gave regular reports on the activities and work of this program. The program underwent a successful external review process this year. Challenges remain as far as resources and attracting faculty to participate. Opportunities for internationalization of programs across campus remain. 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.