Progress Report from the International Mission Task Force

The goal of this presentation is to update the Faculty Senate and Administration on the progress of the International Mission Task Force.

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The objectives of the IMTF are to address the conclusions raised by Dr. Speck in his presentation to the Faculty Senate, Fall 2008

- The International Mission deserves a thorough analysis to weigh the benefits against the costs.
- The Administration will appoint a task force to undertake this review in the context of strategic planning.
- This kind of analysis will be applied to other areas on campus.

Source: Dr. Speck’s presentation, 10-6-08, slide #18
Composition of the Task Force and tentative report outline

- The IMTF is made up of members of the MSSU faculty and staff with representation from key administrators (Dr. Stebbins and Dr. Oakes)
- The IMTF members include faculty/staff appointed by the Faculty Senate and faculty/staff appointed by the administration
- Five-part outline
Charge from the President

In order to assist the IMTF in its review of the International Mission, Dr. Speck issued a specific charge to the IMTF.

- Comparisons with other institutions in terms of E & G, funding for student and faculty travel, and outside funding sources.

- Suggestions for the future of the international mission both in terms of what students get out of it and what possible ways there are to fund it.

- Any recommendations for increasing the funding for the international mission should identify sources of new funding for those increases.
The outline for this report was composed to address student service and funding issues associated with the IM and with the President’s charge.

Outline:

– Part One: International Mission History, Overview, and Accomplishments
– Part Two: Role of the Faculty
– Part Three: Academic Components
– Part Four: Administration and Financing of the International Mission
Part One: International Mission:
History and Accomplishments

The goal of this section is to document the inception and growth of the International Mission, to chronicle its funding and core accomplishments, and to discuss the CBHE mandates/imperatives.

Core Recommendations:

- Missouri Southern has a university mission with an international emphasis. The university is accountable to the CBHE to fulfill the goals of our mission. With such a strong international emphasis embedded in the mission, a proportional amount of funding should go towards supporting international programs, resources, etc.

- The findings of the International Studies Curriculum Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee should be reviewed and, where appropriate, implemented.

- Prepare for CBHE Mission Review by continuing to vigorously focus
Part Two: Role of Major Constituencies of the International Mission

The goal of this section was to better understand who the International Mission serves.

Core Recommendations:

- We must begin to view our students as a resource.
- We must develop some form of deeper community involvement.
- We must engage in supporting faculty development and create meaningful benchmarks for assessing successful development of programs.
Part Three: Academic Components

The goal of this section is to examine the INTS degree program, the academic components of student travel, and Area 5A.

Core Recommendations:

- MSSU should continue to fund student travel, but should encourage longer study aboard periods.
- MSSU should develop programs that lead to all students benefiting from the International Mission.
Part Four: Administration and Financing

The goal of this section is to assess the need for additional staffing within the Institute and to suggest means of funding the International Mission in the future.

Core Recommendations:

- Maintain a baseline of institutional funding
- The Institute should be involved in University Advancement process.
- International admissions should be a high priority for the Institute.
Core Recommendations:

- The Senior VP, Director of the Institute, and associated staff should:
  - Devise a timetable on international admissions
  - Peg increases in staff to increases in admissions
  - Devote an agreed upon percentage of the revenue realized to international student services
  - Provide means of assessing expense of student recruitment and add a fee to help underwrite the cost of recruitment (staff travel, print publications).
Part Four: Administration and Financing (continued)

Core Recommendations:

- Develop an endowment and actively seek donors
- In the 2009-2010 academic year establish a committee to 1) assess the feasibility of IMTF recommendations, 2) work with the Director to set goals for the Institute
Summary

- MSSU should develop a culture of shared responsibility around the International Mission.
- MSSU should see the International Mission as a competitive advantage (NSSE data).
- IMTF report should be the start, not the end, of the campus conversation about the International Mission.
Time Table for Completion

- By finals we will have a completed report and it will be sent to William Kumbier to copyedit.
- By June 1 the report will circulate to task force members for final revisions and approval.
- By August 1 the report will be submitted to the President of the Faculty Senate and the President of the University.
- It will be posted on the Academic Affairs website and an email with an executive summary and link to the Academic Affairs webpage will be sent to campus.
Questions?