Working Group G: Global Strategies

CoS Strategic Planning Advisory Team representative: Laura Starr
Working group chair: Marc Caffee

Note: the ideas below are from Laura Starr and Prudie Miller provided to Marc Caffee, the chair of the working group, in an effort to motivate Marc to set up a group meeting and discuss the issues. Alas, the working group never met.

Progress on working group charge:
1. Should the College identify and support a small number of globally focused activities? If so, how should those activities be identified?
   • If the College of Science identifies a few key areas to grow, (e.g. drug discovery, informatics) then the CoS can work to identify a few key institutions to work with in these areas. Once we have relationships with these institutions, we can explore other types of collaborations between our institutions. This will allow us to concentrate our efforts towards a smaller number of institutions, working towards high quality interactions.
   • The CoS can also look to key areas around the world that the University as a whole has identified as important, such as Columbia and India.

2. What strategies might the College adopt to increase participation in study abroad experiences, especially those that last one semester or longer?
   • Since some programs are very lock step with little option for electives or changing the plan of study without delaying graduation, we need to work towards identifying summer programs as opposed to semester-long ones for students in these majors.
   • We should encourage departments to be as flexible as possible in terms of allowing students the opportunity to study abroad while staying “on track” at Purdue.
   • A unit headed by a person with faculty rank should promote and facilitate study abroad. Advocates at the faculty level are required.
   • Encourage faculty willing to lead short-term programs (this could be viewed as student mentoring).
   • The College should present studying abroad or working on a global project on campus as an expectation.

3. What role do international undergraduate and graduate students play in fostering and nurturing a globally-aware College of Science?
   • The Global Science Partners Program brings international students together with domestic students. It provides a place for them to interact on a regular basis beyond the classroom. This group helps domestic students and international students develop
intercultural skills and competencies while providing international students with a place to gain a deeper understanding of the Purdue University culture.

- International TA’s teaching in undergraduate courses, offer students a chance to work with and learn from international grad students.
- Team/group work, particularly in courses that make efforts to configure multi-cultural groups, provide students another chance to learn from each other and develop intercultural competencies.
- Most lab groups are comprised of a diversity of grad students and post-docs.

4. How can we ensure that any College-supported global strategies are attentive to issues of faculty, staff, and student diversity?

- All of the items discussed in this area are working towards building faculty, staff, and student diversity as well as fostering a positive environment for each of these groups to learn from one another.

5. How can global activities enhance the external prestige and reputation of the College and its academic departments?

- A global presence provides world-wide recognition. When key areas of interest are identified, collaboration works to increase prestige.
- A recognizable global presence serves to attract the most gifted international students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.