Office of International Programs and Exchange
University of the District of Columbia
Washington, D.C.
August 2010
Interim Progress Report

Overview

The University of the District of Columbia’s (UDC’s) plan for internationalizing the campus as developed through the Mellon Community Initiative 2009 is focused on consolidating and mainstreaming existing activities, cataloguing earlier experiences, initiatives and programs, developing policies, and procedures and communicating with all stakeholders. The Office of International Programs and Exchanges (OIP&E) did not exist at the time of our first Mellon Initiative congress at the Salzburg Center for Global Seminars in January 2009. However now, eight months later, in keeping with the mission of the University, the office has been launched. Its development is very timely and fits into the creation of the University system with a community college (this August), and a flagship University celebrating global perspectives as it undertakes broad curriculum reforms. We are very pleased with the progress achieved and are now proceeding to strengthen our outreach and impact in order to expand offerings and fully consolidate activities.

The organizational chart for OIP&E is attached with modifications.

Action Plan Objectives and Outcomes:

Goal 1 – Creating a Resource Center and Administrative Office

Objective 1: Brief University administration on proposed structure.

Outcomes: The process of setting up the division has been slow however the proposed personnel decisions have been completed, and the office now has four staff. The Coordinator for Study Abroad Programs and exchange, the SEVIS Coordinator, the Coordinator for Co-Curricular Activities, and the Director of the office. Regular staff meetings are held and the Office is developing cohesion and visibility. However the staff is not working in the same location. The Director participates in the Dean’s meeting and ongoing Consultations, project reviews, and dialogue continue with faculty and strategic partners and stakeholders.

Objective 2: Secure Physical Space, Budget, Virtual Space.

Outcomes: The Office of International Programs and Exchange is opened and Operating in building 39 room 301-H. We are working towards all the staff having offices in the same physical location and the creation of more public space for visitors and students. Currently, space is being evaluated as major building renovation and plans for moving are being implemented. The webmaster is structuring the
homepage for OIP&E and content is being still being reviewed and developed. A budget has been presented for FY 2010.

**Objective 3: Develop policies and procedures, program planning and assessment.**

Outcomes: The OIP&E staff (four persons including the Director) have worked towards the following: a) Clear and verifiable scholarship and financial aid procedures for international students, both internal and external. This was made necessary by increased tuition rates at the University and has resulted in numerous meetings and discussions with Student Services and the Provost’s Office over the last eight months. B) Systemizing the study abroad procedures – applications, faculty support, logistics, and post-program evaluations and presentations; C) Assessment of programs – for example participants of the Model OAS co-curricular program and Internationalizing the Curriculum program asked for written evaluations.

**Goal 2: Identifying/Assessing Existing Resources**

**Objective 1: Surveys to Obtain Baseline Data**

Outcomes: A report on existing study abroad activities and the potential for development in the future was compiled. A faculty database was created based on faculty research, contacts, skills, and experience in the international arena. This prototype database is designed to provide accessible data for the dissemination of information about international research, conferences and educational opportunities. The database also serves a means of connecting faculty with similar interests and mobilizing faculty to work with partner institutions.

**Objective 2: MOUs/MOA’s**

Outcomes: This has been an area of significant success. We have compiled and updated a listing of MOUs signed or developed by the University over the last ten years. Most are deemed under-developed and inactive. Attention is now focused on those that are current and those that could be reactivated based on the new vision of the University. During the year in review we have received delegations from Cork University, visited and met with University of Sunderland, met with delegation from Australia, delegations from the University of South Africa, representatives from the Higher Education Loan Board from Kenya; we have held meetings with the International Association of Black Professionals in International Relations, (BPIA) as they are called. We have met with the representatives from National Taiwan University. Joint statements and agreements have been signed with the following institutions: of cooperation interest with one of these delegations.

Discussions continue with universities in China, Bahamas, Belize, Ireland, United Kingdom, Egypt, and South Africa. The cooperation agreement signed With the University of Sunderland requires faculty participation the University South Africa, and other proposals are also being discussed. Osun State University, Nigeria continues to seek collaboration with UDC.
Goal 3: Communication, Promotion, Expansion

Objective 1: Communication Tools and Events to Promote Global Initiatives

Outcomes: The Office regularly announces and shares information on opportunities for faculty, students, and staff to be involved in internationalizing the curriculum and campus. International visitors have been welcomed to our campus. Several Co-curricular activities have been planned and carried out with focus on the utilization of the presence of the international community in Washington, D.C. area. OIP&E participates in the planning of the celebration of International Education Week with co insides with Home Coming this year. A week of activities is being planned focused on promoting global initiatives.

OLOPE 2010 Annual Calendar include GloLocal Activities

February
GloLocal Forum: Black History Month: The Africa Diaspora in Progress:
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow the Global Impact of the Struggle for Civil Rights in the USA People of African Descent in Latin America: Development with Equality

March
GloLocal Celebrates International Women’s Month


GloLocal Forum: Terrorism at Home and Abroad

GloLocal Forum: Centenary of the Mexican Revolution:
Mexico: Today and Tomorrow

April
GloLocal Forum: A Global Pot: A Focus on Food Security
Conversation with Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Asma Al-Ketbi

May
GloLocal Forum: Conversation with Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan

June
New York Study Program-NYC

July
Expansion of Co-Curricular Activities with several event planned through the end of 2010
Objective 2: Curricula Revision, Expansion, Innovation

Outcomes:

a) Faculty Curriculum Development Grants: OIP&E is working closely with the deans and chairs of various colleges, schools, and departments on curricula revision, and in collaboration with the University Foundation, and the Grants Writing Division of the University. b) Faculty Travel Grants: Policies and procedures were developed for this but have not yet been implemented.

c) Curricula: The English Department is currently piloting a World Literature group reading project in select sections of English 211, Literature and Advanced Writing I. This project entails reading a single novel—in addition to the requirements of the common syllabus—by an international author typically not read in Gen Ed English courses. As the semester progresses, this reading will be supplemented by co-curricular activities, including panel discussions, museum visits, and film screenings. Instructors will administer pre- and post-unit writing activities to assess students’ knowledge of the culture in question, as well as their sensitivity to other cultures generally.

Additionally, OIPE applauds the University’s launch a new Honors Program in August. Part of the program’s mission is to “consider the ways in which [students’] experiences and local communities are related to global concerns,” a charge that will be included throughout the curriculum, in addition to co-curricular aspects of the program, such as service learning, study abroad, as well as internships with government agencies and international organizations in Washington, D.C. Currently, the Honors Program requires that all students take a “Global Issues” seminar in their senior year. This course will be taught on a rotating basis, likely by collaborating faculty from different disciplines. The seminar will allow students the opportunity to closely examine urgent issues facing the world today, such as Terrorism and Security, Climate Change, Water Accessibility, Food and Sustainability, etc.

An intermediate version of an honors course on Green Politics and Sustainability is currently in the planning stages for the spring semester.

e) Study Abroad: Travel study activities have been planned to Bangkok, Thailand, to look at urban development issues. Work is being done to situate the University within the web of active academic and cultural organizations that work to internationalize U.S. campuses in order to establish a network of professional colleagues interested in the internationalizing of our University.

f) Services to International Students: Significant progress has been made towards responding to international student concerns, needs, and cultural adjustment issues by working with Student Services responding to financial aid issues.

Objective 3: Innovation on Campus
Outcomes: OIPE is pursuing a UDC Diplomatic Neighborhood initiative which includes dialogue with the embassies in the neighborhood. Meetings continue. Among the activities being conducted is a UDC culture share night at the Embassy of Pakistan during Homecoming and International Education Week. This activity is in collaboration with the UDC Alumni Society, OIPE and the Pakistan Embassy.

OIPE is working with the Student Affairs in the planning of Homecoming activities and International Education week as a collaborative effort.

Initiatives to recruit students from China and Saudi Arabia have began

a) Renewing J-1 Visa Status: The University is working to re-establish the J-1 visa status so that professional and student exchanges can begin. We have located the main stumbling blocks with this issue and are working towards solving the problem. In the mean time, the University has executed an MOU with the Organization of American States (OAS) to receive exchange students on J-1 visas. The OAS has scholarship and agreements with a consortium of universities and UDC is now a member that group of universities.

b) International/Domestic Student Interactions: The Office developed a proposal for international/domestic student peer-to-peer counseling and orientation in association with the Counseling Office. The proposal drew attention to the needs of international students as they adjust to the University campus and American educational system. The Office is currently planning programs for International Education Week in November. Activities will facilitate further cultural sharing, interaction, and collaboration between international and domestic and students. This is anticipated to be a week of cultural immersion.

c) Faculty Exchange: In keeping with the strategic plan for the development of a world-class university system, care is being taken to assess the many initiatives presented to the University for faculty and student exchange agreements. The UDC Sunderland Agreement was signed in the month of June 2010. Under this agreement UDC faculty would be visiting Sunderland this fall to engage in areas of engineering and business, details of the agreement is available.

A process of identifying the best strategic partners continues. Several delegations have been welcomed to the campus in the past eight months and dialogue continues with the goal of entering into mutually beneficial agreements. In addition, steps are being taken to examine a number of dormant agreements.

The University has officially signed an agreement to receive a Fulbright Research Scholar from London, to the campus beginning on September 8, 2010. Other Fulbright prospects include scholars in from India, and Taiwan.

d) Community College: The Community College is being asked by the Global Health Services Foundation to collaborate on an initiative to develop a west African Medical Center in Sierra Leone to train health workers in a CAN Program Utilizing the UDC model for this Program.
OIPE has proposed the UDC Summer Institute for Emerging Leaders. Activities would include programs that are focused on global studies, the official Washington, Washington as a center for international trends, and the governance processes, and education in an age of globalization. This summer institute would be a venue for study abroad.

The proposed UDC Diplomatic Academy was developed with the support of the OIPE. Discussions were held with the Office for the Provost regard the undertaking of this initiative by the University. There have been very useful points of views expressed in the meetings and consultations held. Of major significance is the recommendations that a market survey be completed relating to the setting up of a diplomatic academy and the consideration of streaming lining the concept to offer on degree instead of three as proposed. It was also discussed that the overhead cost of such initiative may be pose a real challenge in the short run, without clear indicators that the academy will become a strong revenue stream. Among the main issues which linger in the discussions is the availability of the nature of the space requested in the proposal, the salary of a director, and whether there is a real niche for this initiative. The market survey commissioned by the end of the Month of September may provide some useful answers to inform the process.

f) Planning: Ongoing

The original action plan sets out a very sound platform for constructing a strong Office of International Programs and Exchanges. Action steps are being planned for meeting the objectives with some adjustment to the original recommendations for the structure of the Office. Effective utilization of the OIPE team is critical to its desired impact in contributing to capacity building as envisioned for the office. Fund raising is among the highest priority of the OIPE.

The goal of the Office of International Programs and exchange is to raise funds to strengthen its operations. To date only about $45k has been leveraged, however efforts continue.

Please find attached here to the Action plan for the office of International programs and Exchange for FY 2010-2011

Submitted by Dr. Denis Antoine,

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