Members Present: Yasser Alhenawi, Bev Fowler, Rachel Hansen, Earl Kirk, Wes Milner, Roger Pieroni, Bill Stroube, and Jon Truitt

Members Present via Teleconferencing: Roger Beck and Kara Pike

Members Not Present Due to Schedule Conflicts: Brian Ernsting, Phil Gerhart, Gordon Kingsley, and Alicia Neaves

The International Working Group met at 9:00 am on Thursday 11 November in Graves 240. Wes Milner updated the working group on the most recent Steering Committee meeting. Among other comments, he emphasized the encouragement of bold thinking, the need to reach out through joint meetings and discussions with those not on our working group, and the need to be mindful of financial ramifications of any suggestions that move forward. If working groups foresee significant cost issues, they are encouraged to invite someone from the Financial Resources working group for a discussion. Furthermore, as we develop recommendations, it is important to include clear written rationales.

The discussion turned to the sample strategic plans posted on the website and to additional areas of interest to the international working group. Bev Fowler shared with the group her findings about Kalamazoo College, a long-time leader in study abroad, who is now working to increase its international student segment on campus and suggested that a greater effort at recruitment of international students at UE could increase diversity. She also cited examples from the strategic plans of Elon and DePauw as well as the ISEP program. The group then had a brief discussion about need-based and merit-based aid and concluded that need-based aid is essential for students from some countries. Alums may be helpful in developing leads among international students, and program-specific recruitment was discussed. Yasser Alhenawi stressed the importance of engaging the entire family when recruiting international students in Asia and stressed the importance of working with embassies and private schools and stressing the safety of the UE campus.

The group also discussed the need to know more about intensive English at UE and how it can promote our international agenda, and we hope to have a report at our next session. We also explored the infrastructure for international education at Eastern Illinois and UNC-Wilmington, the home institutions of working group members Roger Beck and Kara Pike.

Members were invited to identify materials for the share point and examples of effective international programs. Roger Beck called for a more focused agenda at our meetings and will forward his suggestions.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 November at 2:00 pm Central Time in Graves Hall 240.