Members Present: Brian Ernsting, Bev Fowler, Rachel Hansen, Earl Kirk, Wes Milner, Alicia Neaves, Phil Gerhart, and Bill Stroube

Members Present via Teleconferencing: Roger Beck, Gordon Kingsley, and Kara Pike

Members Not Present Due to Schedule Conflicts: Yasser Alhewani, Roger Pieroni, and Jon Truitt

The International Working Group convened at 2:00 pm on Wednesday 1 December in Graves 240. The majority of our session explored the theme of strengthening and expanding UE’s footprint in the larger world and began with a presentation by Dr. Gordon Kingsley, Principal of our British campus, Harlaxton College. For forty years, Harlaxton has represented an enormous portion of our international effort in terms of enrollment and resources, both human and financial, and hence the need to integrate Harlaxton into the larger University planning process. Harlaxton promotes many key institutional mission elements related to global competence, integrated learning, academic excellence, community building, institutional identity, student and faculty development, among others. Dr. Kingsley perceives that Harlaxton may have the potential to increase enrollment somewhat but this will probably require additional staff and resources. One on-going challenge is the lack of a formal capital budget to address deferred maintenance. The general discussion then turned to whether the lessons of Harlaxton might be transferable to other settings abroad and what UE’s goals might be for developing further educational opportunities abroad. Should we seek another location for “going deep” or to exploit connections already established in Europe? Or should we explore “going broad”—having multiple locations in various parts of the world? Could Harlaxton provide points of connection with other parts of the world in terms of internationalizing its student body or establishing linkages with educational institutions in Europe or Asia? Could we strengthen ties to British institutions such as nearby Nottingham University, who has a campus in China? The curricular integration model, so successful at Harlaxton, seems worthy of consideration at any other site we might establish. Faculty development as well as study abroad opportunities are important components of the Harlaxton experience that could be transferable to other settings. While we at UE think mainly of Harlaxton as a study site for UE students, Harlaxton is an important program provider for institutions across the USA, thereby raising the profile of and promoting respect for both UE and Harlaxton College.

At the close of the meeting, we discussed an expanded list of major goals identified thus far for our international efforts and have now tentatively come to five:

1. Protect, develop, and invest in our signature international program at Harlaxton College.
2. Establish an academic presence in Asia, coupled with a curricular focus on Asian Languages and Cultures on our home campus.
3. Develop an international component of our foundational academic programs with special emphasis on the general education curriculum.
4. Enhance our international distinctiveness by providing a significant global experience for 100% of our students, while growing the presence of international students studying at Evansville.
5. Implement an administrative structure that supports our international activity.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday 7 December at 8:00 am in Graves Hall 240 when we will begin our final draft report.