

PROGRESS REPORT
2007 Task Force on International Education Recommendations
October 5, 2009

Summary: of 23 recommendations (22 has #1 and #2), 8 done or established and continuing, 4 partial or in progress, 9 not done.

Goal 1: To improve and enrich SMU's undergraduate curriculum with respect to global themes, including foreign languages.

Recommendation 1: We recommend enhancements to SMU's Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Although the Task Force is convinced that substantial enhancements, including additional faculty, are necessary, the Task Force is not the proper "design team" for how to strengthen and expand the offerings of the Department of Foreign Language. Thus, we recommend the appointment of a Committee, reporting to the Dean of Dedman College, charged with developing a plan to improve the Department of Foreign Languages so that it at least matches the best practices at our benchmark schools. The Task Force believes that, at a minimum, the plan should address the following:

- *Additional tenure-track lines for language/culture instruction in several areas where our offerings fall short of the student demand or benchmark practices.*
- *The feasibility and value of teaching Arabic.*
- *Bringing more stability and numbers to the area of full-time lecturers, including professional development, possible multi-year contracts, and salaries and benefits that can retain these lecturers in a highly competitive market.*

Progress: Not done. This item is tied to the proposed University Curriculum, which takes this item into consideration, so it is in progress. Multi-year contracts for lecturers are possible.

Recommendation 2: We recommend the creation of a Committee charged with formulating a foreign language requirement for SMU undergraduates. This recommendation is not meant to displace the foreign language requirements that some departments currently have in place. Rather, this recommendation relates to a foreign language requirement that would be more generally applicable.

Progress: This is part of the University Curriculum proposal – continuing.

Recommendation 3: We recommend that the general education curriculum include greater emphasis on global themes. Specifically, we recommend the following changes:

- *The General Education Curriculum should maintain the Human Diversity requirement (Gender, Ethnicity, Race), but this should be an independent requirement and not a co-curricular requirement.*
- *The General Education curriculum should require students to take three courses (9 hours) that satisfy a category that, for now, we will call “global studies.” This should be in addition to the Human Diversity Requirement; that is, students should be required to take 3 courses in the Global Studies area, in addition to the Human Diversity Requirement. We suggest that many of these could be courses that are cross-listed within departments.*
- *The distributional areas or domains used in any revised general education should include categories or subcategories from which students could draw to satisfy the course requirements for Global Studies requirements. We suggest the following as possible subcategories, when these take the form of international, global, or comparative themes:*
 - a) world histories*
 - b) art, literature, and culture*
 - c) religion and culture*
 - d) politics and economics*

Progress: This recommendation and all contained items are addressed in the University Curriculum proposal.

Recommendation 4: We recommend that SMU, beyond its general education, provide sufficient course offerings to allow serious upper-level study in disciplinary and interdisciplinary global and international areas.

Progress: Not done. This must follow approval of the University Curriculum.

Goal 2: To increase the numbers of, and support for, faculty members engaged in teaching and research relating to SMU’s Mission Statement on Global Education.

Recommendation 5: We recommend the addition of additional faculty lines necessary to address curricular needs in areas critical to SMU’s Mission on Global Education. We cannot offer a precise estimate of the numbers of faculty or what areas they should represent, but our educated estimate includes:

- *The enhancements, noted in Recommendation 1, relating to faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.*
- *Additional faculty necessary to address the curricular needs set out in Recommendation 4. We suggest that the Provost could work with the Deans of Schools involved in*

undergraduate teaching to determine where and how to allocate new faculty lines. The aim would be to allocate new faculty to departments offering courses in areas needed in light of the SMU Mission Statement on Global Education. For instance, one of seven new faculty lines could be given to a department in return for three new or additional courses in areas important to global education. (If the department did not uphold its share of the bargain, the line associated with the next faculty departure or retirement would be lost.) If a new faculty member outside of the sciences, with benefits, costs about \$80,000, the total first-year operational cost for these new faculty lines would be about \$560,000. The yield would be 21 additional course offerings that would deepen SMU's coverage of global themes.

Progress: Not Done. This is in progress, in conjunction with final development of the University Curriculum.

Recommendation 6: We recommend the creation of a fund that would support the inclusion of global themes within existing courses, and faculty research focused on these themes. A specific structure for this and other several other recommended resource enhancements appears in Recommendation 21.

Progress: This recommendation must be addressed through the current and ongoing Capital Campaign. Possibly in progress, but not done.

Recommendation 7: We recommend the creation and maintenance of a database and central information source about the international research and teaching activities of SMU faculty. This database could serve both internal and external purposes.

Progress: Partially done. Studio Abroad software is in place, and tracks international activity of students and faculty/staff.

Goal 3: To Expand and Diversify Education Abroad

Recommendation 8: We recommend that a higher percentage of SMU students have education abroad experiences. Specifically, over time and with appropriate intermediate goals, SMU should seek to increase the percentage of graduating seniors with an education abroad experience from 24.49% to 50%.

Progress: Partially done, and in progress. Financial aid for summer study (including study abroad) and J-term is in place, and 100 additional abroad programs went into effect this fall (for registration).

Recommendation 9: We recommend that SMU increase the numbers of programs, and diversify the types and locations of programs, that offer an education abroad experience for our students. In doing so, SMU should continue to support and build upon the types of education abroad experiences that are created and led by SMU faculty.

Progress: Done, and continuing. SMU-led or coordinated programs in Oaxaca and Cairo have been added, in addition to 100 new provider programs in varied countries.

Recommendation 10: We recommend the establishment of a fund that would give financial support to the “prospecting” and development efforts of faculty and staff for developing education abroad programs.

Progress: Not done. This is tied to the current Capital Campaign.

Recommendation 11: We recommend that SMU expand availability of merit and need-based aid for education abroad experiences. As to possible additional SMU-provided merit and need-based aid for education abroad, we recommend that the Director of the International Center and the Director of Financial Aid develop scenarios and proposals allowing decisions about the best methods of implementing this Recommendation.

Progress: Established and continuing – Financial aid for summer study (including study abroad) and J-term is in place. Possible expansion is being considered.

Recommendation 12: We recommend the formation of a special committee to make recommendations relating to transfer of credit under various types of education abroad programs that might be offered in the future.

Progress: In progress. In fall, 2009 we established a task force to recommend a mechanism to offer SMU resident credit for courses in approved study abroad programs. Report due end of October.

Recommendation 13: We recommend that the International Center undertake a thorough examination of, and implementation of, “best processes” for admission to, initiating, implementing, conducting, monitoring, and keeping data on education abroad programs. This should include the issue of how to ensure continuity in programs even when individual faculty members are not able to return to the same program each year.

Progress: Initiated. The Director of Education Abroad has reviewed all SMU-led or – owned programs against the standards found in the Forum on Education Abroad’s *Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad*. Recommendations to each program leader are forthcoming.

Goal 4: To recruit, retain, and fully integrate into the campus community international students in sufficient numbers and from diverse countries of origin.

Recommendation 14: We recommend that SMU's Office of International Admissions and Relations continue to recruit students from diverse countries of origin. We also recommend that SMU's Global Strategic Planning Group (see Recommendation 21), along with the Office of International Admissions and Relations, continue to assess the following:

- *Whether to increase the numbers, and further diversify the countries of origin, of international students.*
- *Whether to offer additional merit or need-based financial aid for international students.*
- *Whether to offer merit-based scholarships without requiring the submission of SAT/ACT test.*

Progress: Established, in progress, and continuing.

Recommendation 15: We recommend the creation of a subcommittee that would coordinate with the Department of Residence Life and Housing, and the Office of Student Affairs, to formulate a plan recommending the appropriate best practices with respect to the living arrangements and other aspects of student life for SMU's international students. This should include consideration of supportive services necessary for international students and their families, residence life arrangements, and connecting international students in general to the campus fabric and to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Progress: Not done. However, the Executive Director is pursuing these issues with current international students. The advent of a two-year on-campus housing requirement will provide opportunities to address this.

Goal 5: To create, improve, and coordinate structures necessary for continuing and enhancing the globalization of SMU.

Recommendation 16: We recommend a policy requiring that the Education Abroad Council approve any education abroad program which includes undergraduates, after appropriate departmental and school approval. This includes "SMU in" programs as well as affiliate programs. Further, the Education Abroad Council should be involved in periodic evaluation of quality and content of Education Abroad offerings, whether "SMU in" programs or affiliate agreements.

Progress: Established and continuing.

Recommendation 17: We recommend that the International Center, in coordination and consultation as appropriate with relevant units of the university, undertake the following:

- *The creation and maintenance of a database containing all affiliation agreements and exchange agreements relating to Education Abroad. Because this represents a substantial additional activity not yet undertaken by other departments or the university, we recommend that funds be made available for this.*

- *The creation of a process or flow chart to guide the steps that must be taken by a faculty member or school in devising an education abroad program. Input on relevant steps and forms should be obtained from SMU administrators involved in risk management, legal, human relations, and student affairs.*
- *The creation or purchase of a web-based system that facilitates the process by which students research, sign up for, and enter relevant data with respect to education abroad in any form.*

Progress: Partially established and in progress. See newly-revised website.

Recommendation 18: We recommend a structure or structures that champions, coordinates, and facilitates international-related co-curricular activities on campus, and between SMU and our international civic community. This could be within one of the offices within student life, or might be placed under the Provost's office in conjunction with development and public relations.

Progress: Not done. This may be a possibility for the Community Engagement Council.

Recommendation 19: We recommend the creation of a database, possibly useable only via SMU.access, that would help connect faculty to faculty, students to students, and faculty to students with respect to international research, education, and collaborations.

Progress: Not done. Approach not obvious, low priority.

Recommendation 20: We recommend the creation and maintenance of an overall web portal to "Global SMU" or some similar term. The portal would be a main link on the home page, and it would in turn connect both outsiders and insiders to information about international-related programs, institutes and centers, research, faculty, organizations, and events.

Progress: Established and in progress. See newly-revised website.

Recommendation 21: We recommend the creation of a scholarly Global Studies Center whose mission would be to foster teaching and research in global studies across the university. Because the mission of this Center would be University-wide, we recommend that it not be located within any one school or department. Its activities would include:

- *Encouraging the infusion of global themes in the curriculum by funding targeted faculty proposals for adding international or global themes to the curriculum.*
- *Encouraging visiting faculty from Universities outside the United States, perhaps by creating rotating international Fellow positions.*
- *Encouraging and supporting SMU faculty in international research and teaching, with targeted funds for that purpose.*

- *Providing undergraduate research fellowships for students pursuing independent research in international studies, including research overseas.*

Progress: Not done. We do, however, have the continuing Richter Fellowship program for undergraduate independent research abroad. The University Research Council and certain school councils fund faculty research abroad; this is a good candidate for expansion. Also, the Office of National Fellowships and awards assists both faculty and students in securing financial academic awards, some abroad.

Recommendation 22: We recommend that SMU create two ongoing groups that will help the leadership of the university in continued strategic planning with respect to international initiatives.

1. *An internal, university-wide Global Strategic Planning Group. We recommend continuity between this internal Global Strategic Planning Group and the current Task Force. Thus, a substantial number of the Global Strategic Planning Group should come from the membership of this Task Force, and this could be done on a rotating basis. Other members could consist of faculty appointed by the Provost in consultation with Deans from all schools. Finally, the group would include leadership from other relevant areas of the university, such as risk management or student affairs. This would not be a decision-making body, but an internal strategic advisory group.*

Progress: Not done. We do, however, have an active Education Abroad Council comprised of faculty representing each undergraduate school.

2. *An external Advisory Board for Global Education. This could be positioned as a Board that is advisory to the International Center.*

Progress: In progress, but as a full Executive Board, not advisory. Hopeful for December, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting.