



GEAC Retreat

September 4, 2020

9:00-11:00am

Took place via Zoom

Present: Jehad Adwan, Dan Benson, Wade Davis, Mohamed Diab, Dominik Drabent, Rama Mohapatra, Sean Wachsmuth, Elizabeth Finsness, Adriana Gordillo, Chandler Holland, Guadalupe Quintero, Erica Johnson, Anna Ochs, Olga Nelson, and Anne Dahlman

Welcome and Introductions

Dean Dahlman started the meeting off with a greeting and where we are at currently and what the meeting will all entail. Each Center gave a brief update

CEAA: COIL- bringing students back in work on risk management for future terms

CELP: Olga- How to teach online and governmental changes. Successful summer semester courses. All courses are online and they are degree-seeking students along with one new student. There is a currently struggle about new students and the opportunity to seek F1 visas. They are re connecting with all partners and extending new partnerships. Two new Japanese partnerships. One will start this spring for a month and then a fully online group or two of Japanese cohort. They are finding solutions and leaning toward online courses. They have been very innovative. Big Idea working with students who struggle academically and help them through the IEP and to provide additional support and getting ready for university life. Note: CELP is a self-supporting office and they are dipping a little bit into reserves

Anne said that trend for IEP has dipped a little bit but the projections that this is expected to rebound. Both customized training and conditionally admitted students. Lots of potential.

KCISS: International Student update from Anne

Most of the students stayed on campus. This year we have only 23 less students than last year. 93 countries. New and returning students. Effort is across the board and the cabinet is on board for supporting international students.

Dominick- international student from Germany. He is excited to be back even with the different policies. He was not sure how he was going to continue to his education but he is excited support the diverse student body and community and they are able to receive the support they need.

Big Idea: space for more global connections – center it in one area.

Chandler: Goal is to have a pulse on what is going on outside the four wall of the university so we have access to recourses and get us back outside of the campus as safe as possible.

Wade: Concern- international have the support they. They have unique difficulties and housing situations. They end with a really good experience and keep bringing students in.

Big idea: program or options for more students to travel abroad. Requirements within departments to student abroad so programs can be more expansive.

Anne added – strategic and leverage the funds we have and we have the ability to choose how we use the money. Keep investing. Where do we want to invest.

Rama: participated in Positive Thinking seminar in India. He said we are doing a lot for international students but we can better communicate and have a better central mechanism where we communicate what are doing and how it helps the students. He is in touch with several groups of students and there is often a gap between what the students think the university is doing and what the university is actually doing.

He is doing work with students not just as a faculty member but more as a community member.

Anne is going to lead a Global Hour each month. It is going to be a listening session. 5:00pm on Thursdays for one hour. Open conversations. President Davenport is going to be the first lead in.

Adriana: promoting languages as part of our global perspective; COIL initiatives – specifically Colombia and Mexico (Latin America) keep promoting these initiatives and with more support. Faculty perspective and to build more ties.

Anne retention is so important! Over 100 international students are interested in nursing but they very rarely get in. Students are not able to retake pre-rec courses. Which can be huge barrier for students.

Jehad: with great uncertainty comes great possibility, we can think globally and act locally. Take advantage of resources- specifically technology.

Big idea: Develop open courses free of charge (Talked about his experience at UofM with informatics) really get the name of the university out there and have a better online presence. Local resources to help with graduate students with GAsships, housing, internet, etc.

Dan Benson: help get the word out and support the events of Global Ed. Help inform the university, share new initiatives, and work with the marketing and communication office and help support the efforts. – ability to do with his current position

Shawn: Fulbright was cancelled for Finland. He is reapplying for next year. Would like to help and encourage faculty collaboration with university across the world. **Expand the information from the world of special education.**

Elizabeth Finsness: Global Student teaching: New locations in Kenya and Alaska. More partnerships with additional content area and faculty. Currently everything is on hold. A large percentage of scholarships from alumni has been offered to help offset costs.

Conversation- led to conversation about donors and talking points for donors.

Lupe: Supervised 17 students who documented the pandemic. Was a highlight for her! Accepted to be a part of Global Minnesota. Continue with the recruitment and retention of international students in Latin America (Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador)

Anne said they hired 150 international students to document the pandemic as a library project. Hundreds of artifacts were collected. Included artwork and reflections. University invested \$100,000 in this project for the summer.

Mohamed: Was planning a study abroad program run in May with 15 students which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Students are still interested in traveling and they are planning on going through with this FLP this spring semester. It is great opportunity for students to learn more about international collaboration. Worked with about 35 international students to help provide meals and financial support. Communication was a barrier for some students. Believes we will have more student travel after the pandemic.

Big idea: more work with k-12 universities. Not just, visit them but to do programs with the students each year and be consistent with the time of the year. Marketing. University name needs to be visible. Visa barriers- development programs to keep them engaged. Travel is still a must- need to learn about other cultures. Mentioned the communication and how to answer questions and keep the students engaged. Be strategic with the location and time we are devoting.

Global Experience and Global Mindset. More programs that are a minimum of 3 weeks.

Strategic Priorities for our work this year to guide our work:

- Engage with stakeholders on and off campus to leverage collaborations, e.g., partner universities, faculty/academic programs, support services, alumni, etc. What can we do better together?
- Innovate in the virtual space and beyond, e.g., recruitment, English language programs, education abroad, faculty collaboration, etc. How do we evolve purposefully in a fluid global environment?
- Focus efforts based on data, e.g., how to use GE grant funding, where to recruit, what partner universities to invest efforts in, etc. What is the best way to invest our resources?

Anne-

Excel- these are things we do well!

Expand – we have three agents to help with recruitment

Explore – all the big crazy ideas – some will stick and some will not. (If all of our ideas are sticking, we are not thinking outside the box enough)

Mohamed: partnership with HAN and construction management. They are going to work in teams to complete projects.

Anne: student comes to Mankato for three reason

- Majors

- Connections – we have more students from one high school in Ethiopia than we do from China.
(how can we invest in these connections even more)
- Value
 - Can we offer student worker position? Job for recruitments
 - Wade- job experience! This would be a larger draw for and could put them on a map

Dominik- completely agreed with the three reasons that students come to Mankato.

Difficulty for international students to get work internship experiences.

Jehad asked if there was any data about why students stay and bring their siblings/connection to the university.

Meeting ended at 11:01am on 9.4.2020