

# **SENATE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SIAC) REPORT**

Prepared for the TRU Senate, February 23, 2009 meeting

## **1.0 Establishment of the Senate International Affairs Committee**

Senate International Affairs Committee (SIAC) was officially established in the fall of 2008. The first official committee meeting was held on October 9, 2008.

The committee agreed to use the acronym “SIAC” to represent the “Senate International Affairs Committee”.

The Strategic Plan Development Steering Committee for International Opportunities was created in March 2008. SIAC absorbed the mandate of this adhoc working group in June 2008. There were numerous members, including the Chair, who served on both committees and as such provided the required continuity.

## **2.0 Mandate/Terms of Reference**

The goal of the committee is to act as a catalyst with respect to the implementation of the goals in the TRU Strategic Plan with respect to internationalization of TRU. It is not a supervisory body for TRU World. Members of TRU World participate on the committee. The respective mandates compliment one another.

Responsibilities of the International Affairs Committee

- Advise Senate on measures to achieve the goals set out in the University’s Strategic Plan with regard to International Opportunities with a focus on internationalization and increasing the number of international opportunities for TRU students and faculty.
- Advise Senate on measures to promote alignment of academic, budgetary and other priorities of Senate with the international activities of the University.

## **3.0 Membership**

The terms of reference identifies membership from specific constituencies. The membership represents a reasonably wide sector of the campus community. It is recognized that not all sectors are represented. As appropriate, input from outside the committee membership will be sought.

## Senate International Affairs Committee (SIAC)

<u>Membership</u>	<u>Members as of January, 2009</u>
Chair - Director, TRU World	Vera Wojna
Associate Vice-President, TRU World	Cyndi McLeod
Associate Vice President, Legal	John Sparks
A minimum of two Senators approved by Senate (one must be a Dean);	Kathy Mitchell (Dean – Student Development) Peter Tsigaris (SOBE)*
Five faculty members approved by Senate;	Brenda Mathews – Computing Mohammad Mahbobi – SOBE Michelle Funk – Nursing Carole Hebden - CED/COOP Emma Bourassa - ESL & CTL Liaison
Two students appointed by TRUSU;  <i>(Preferably including the TRUSU International Advocacy Representative and a domestic student representative.)</i>	TBA (2)  <i>Request for representation submitted to TRUSU</i>
One representative from the Academic Planning and Priorities Committee appointed by the APPC;	Cyndi McLeod Peter Tsigaris*
One representative from the Budget Committee appointed by the Budget Committee;	Cameron Beddome (OL)
One employee of the University who is involved in Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition appointed by the Vice-President Open Learning;	Christine Wihak (OL)
Two representative from OL (preferably including one student) appointed by Vice-President, Open Learning	Bryan Daly, (Academic Director, Science, Math and Computing) Ross Nelson (Arts, International Coordinator)
Secretarial Support, TRU World	Miriam Krauss, Secretarial Support

*\*Terms on Senate/APPC ended as of January 2009*

### **4.0 Membership Meetings for 2008- 2009 Academic Year**

The International Affairs Committee meetings will be held on the second Thursday of almost every month (see list of dates below) from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in the CN Boardroom unless otherwise notified.

The meeting dates are currently as follows:

October 9, 2008	March 12, 2009
November 13, 2008	April 9, 2009
December 11, 2008	May 14, 2009
February, 12, 2009	

#### **4.1 Agenda Items**

Proposed agenda items to be sent to Committee Chair, Vera Wojna [vwojna@tru.ca](mailto:vwojna@tru.ca).

Request that agenda items be submitted for consideration two weeks prior to each meeting. Items/topics should reflect the specific terms of reference of this committee with a focus on internationalization and increasing the number of international opportunities for TRU students and faculty.

#### **4.2 Website**

Information on the committee, including meeting agendas and minutes are contained on the Senate sub-committee website. In addition, relevant information on internationalization will also be posted to this site.

<http://www.tru.ca/senate/committees/intaffairs.html>

#### **5.0 SIAC Actions/Priorities (2008 – 2009)**

The initial meetings were undertaken to address the operational aspects of the committee as well as finalizing the strategic plan implementation submission for the steering committee.

The current priority of the committee is to address the specific responsibilities identified for SIAC within the Plan of Action – TRU Strategic Plan Implementation document ratified by Senate in December 2008.

#### **5.1. Approach**

- a. Identified all the specific action items within the TRU Strategic Plan Implementation document which expressly designates SIAC responsibility for implementation. These exist in the “International Opportunities” section as well as one action item within the “Student Engagement” section.
- b. Established three core initiative categories and working groups:
  - Group 1: Guiding Principles, Core Definitions & Global Citizenship
  - Group 2: International Student – Integration and Student Success
  - Group 3: Canadian Student International Experience
- c. Each group to meet outside core committee meetings to:
  - Articulate a proposal regarding a strategy for SIAC or TRU to meet the goal expressed in the action.
  - Identify resource/funding required to implement (if applicable)
  - Bring forward items which require Senate or Budget approval to the broader committee
  - Undertake specific tasks if applicable
- d. In areas where information gathering, benchmarking is required, work with appropriate areas, such as IPA and area directors, Deans and departmental chairs.

- e. IPA to present NSSE results with respect to the goal to “Establish a plan to enhance integration of international students; measurements of integration to be accomplished by comparing relevant NSSE results of international and domestic students.”  
- Presentation and discussion at the January 12, 2009 SIAC meeting.

**5.2 Strategic Plan Implementation Focus – SIAC Working Groups**

Working groups meeting over January/February – to report progress and recommendations to date to the main SIAC committee in March and April.

Three working groups with distinct categories of initiative:

**WG1: SIAC Guiding Principles, Core Definitions & Global Citizenship**

Members: Ross Nelson, Emma Bourassa, Christine Wihak, Cyndi McLeod, Vera Wojna

**WG2: International Student – Integration and Student Success**

Members: Kathy Mitchell, Cameron Beddome, Peter Tsigaris, Mohammed Mahbobi, Carol Hebden

**WG3: Canadian Student International Experience**

Members: Kathy Mitchell, John Sparks, Bryan Daly, Brenda Mathews, Michelle Funk, Carole Hebden

**5.3 Goals & Actions excerpted from TRU Strategic Plan Implementation**

<b>Working Group #1: Core Definitions and Guiding Principles and Global Citizenship</b>
<p><b>a. Establish core definitions of common terminology:</b> Internationalization, Global Citizenship, Global Competency, International Opportunities, Study Abroad, Exchange, Dual Degree, Joint Degree, etc.</p> <p><i>Note: Starting point-- Work with established definitions in the field of key concepts such as internationalization (Jane Knight, etc.)</i></p>
<p><b>b. Articulate guiding principles for SIAC</b> Informing committee approach and decision making</p>
<p><b>Student Engagement Pillar of TRU Strategic Plan:</b> <b>Goal 1:</b> Engage students in the quest for world citizenship through social and cultural learning opportunities, in a respectful and inclusive environment that provides a better understanding and appreciation of our global community.</p> <p>.</p> <p><b>c. Action 1b: SIAC to advise on measures and mechanisms required for global citizenship.</b> <i>Note: Research mechanisms and measures in existing programs. (e.g. UBC, “Road to Global Citizenship”, U of A: “Global Citizenship Education”, AUCC Research, American Council on Education, etc.)</i></p>

**Working Group 2: International Student – Integration and Student Success**

**Goal 7. Expand support and services available to international students.**

Action 7a. Establish a plan to enhance integration of international students; measurements of integration to be accomplished by comparing relevant NSSE results of international and domestic students.

*Notes:*

- IPA compiling NSSE results – share findings with committee
- Collaborate with Student Engagement Committee of Senate

Action 7b. Enhance Student Success courses and mount courses and workshops to assist international students understand culture, social life, and academic procedures and expectations.

*Notes:*

- Assess feedback on 1<sup>st</sup> two pilot courses offered in Fall 2008 Semester
- Involve Instructor and Developer, Kyra Garson
- Collaborate with Student Engagement Committee of Senate

**Working Group 3: Canadian Student International Experience**

**Goal 1: Increase the number of international opportunities for TRU students.**

Action 1a. Conduct an audit of current international opportunities.

*Notes:*

- Define “international opportunities”
- Benchmark – current offerings
- Involve TRU World, Study Abroad, Department Chairs, others

Action 1d. Undertake a survey to identify interests, enablers and constraints regarding students’ participation in study abroad initiatives.

*Notes:*

- Capitalize on AUCC/CBIE survey to be conducted by Sheryl. Bond (Queens) at TRU in spring 2009.
- Reference past survey conducted at TRU(UCC) in 2000 by Institutional Research to assess interest, enablers and constraints regarding study abroad. (Conducted and compiled by Dorys Crespín Meuller)

Action: 1c. Establish credit and other forms of formal recognition for students who have undertaken international experiences.

*Notes:*

- Existing Adhoc Interest Group established in May 2009: Annette Dominik, Marilyn Schigol, Susie Safford, Kate Sutherland, Josh Keller, Vera Wojna
- involve Registrar’s Office, relevant academic areas

- *Research VIU (Malaspina)- currently has a model in place. As well as other universities across Canada such as Laval University (Engineering).*

## **6.0 Future Priorities (late 2009/2010)**

### **Goal #2 Increase opportunities for TRU Faculty to teach and conduct research internationally.**

Action 1a. Identify international teaching and research opportunities within existing and new partnerships with the institutional goal of increasing opportunities by 25% by 2010.

*Note: Collaborate with AVP TRU World, R&GS*

### **Additional Initiatives – Enhanced SIAC Website**

Creation of a special section on the SIAC website

- Collection of resources and information on “internationalization” and “global citizenship”
- Links to relevant websites (both internal and external)
- Post articles and discussion papers

Report submitted by SIAC Chair, Vera Wojna  
February 10, 2009

Questions and comments welcomed.

## NOTES ON FEEDBACK FROM SENATE – FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>

Highlights of substantive feedback on SIAC's priorities and activities to date:

1. Endorsed the importance of the “international designation”. Would like to see this in place as soon as possible.
2. Recognized that value of providing definitions for key concepts such as global citizenship. Some of the terminology can be subjective or vague.
3. Brought forward for consideration the task of establishing criteria for affiliation with international organizations/institutions. Would this something that SIAC could undertake? Perhaps this could be done in collaboration with VP Academic and TRU World.
4. Recommendation from one Senator to add to TRU actions plan related to the integration of international students, the goal of creating a more respectful community context; community outreach and awareness building.
5. The Senate Steering Committee indicated that they are currently reviewing the TOR of SIAC with respect to the role of “advising Senate on measures to promote alignment of academic, budgetary and other priorities of Senate with the international activities of the University.”
6. International Days (March 2 – 6): Highlighted the importance of International Days and its capacity to help meet the goals set out in the Strategic Plan. It illustrates the range of initiatives currently undertaken by faculty, staff and students. Recognition for the involvement of the Williams Lake Campus.