

# SENATE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SIAC) REPORT

Prepared for the TRU Senate, June 22, 2009 Meeting

## **A. Overview:**

SIAC members meet monthly. In addition, there are four working groups undertaking initiatives in three core areas which are drawn from the TRU Strategic Plan Implementation Plan:

- Terminology and Global Citizenship
- International Student integration and success
- Study abroad opportunities and recognition

The last SIAC meeting was held on May 14, 2009 where the working groups reported on their progress. The working groups will continue to meet over the summer as possible, and will report on their progress at the next formal meeting in late September/early October. Perhaps the greatest challenge to date has been the ability to identify meeting times where most members are able to attend. Despite this, progress has been made by all working groups. Several of our working groups have adopted a different approach as a result of this challenge by holding multiple meetings with smaller groups in order to make progress

## **B. Working Group 1: Common Terminology and Concepts**

Objective #1: Establish core definitions of common terminology and create a reference document of this terminology as it best applies to TRU

The working group presented “Definitions of Key Concepts and Terminology (Draft #3)” to the full Senate International Affairs Committee. This input was incorporated into the next draft (Draft #4). The working group will continue meeting over the summer to refine the document. They will also seek input from the Registrar’s Office on terminology related to this area.

- 1.0 KEY CONCEPTS
  - Internationalization
  - World citizenship/Global citizenship
  - Global competency
  - Intercultural competency
  - International opportunities

- 2.0 CORE TERMINOLOGY
  - Study abroad
  - Terminology for TRU Admissions:
    - a. Study Abroad student
    - b. Exchange student
  - Bi-lateral exchange
  - ISEP exchange
  - Field School/Field course
  - COOP/Internship/Practicum abroad
  - Dual Degree
  - Joint Degree
  - Double Degree
  - Bologna Process
  - ECTS
  
- 3.0 Language Competency Tests
  - English Language Competency Tests
  - TOEFL, IELTS, TRU ESL Accuplacer
  - Additional recognized tests
  - Other Language Competency Tests

Objective #2: Related to the Student Engagement pillar of the TRU Strategic Plan  
Goal: 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.

SIAC was to advise on measures and mechanisms required for global citizenship.

Appendix 2 of the “Definitions of Key Concepts and Terminology” document provides suggestions on how to approach the concept of global citizenship in more depth. We have been informed by Canadian sources and examples such as the UBC “Road to Global Citizenship”, BC Centre for Curriculum Transfer and Technology, University of Alberta: “Global Citizenship Education”, and the AUCC Research in this area.

This information (draft document) will be shared with the Student Engagement Committee for their input.

Emerging Issue:

As we explored the language requirements and the option for PLAR credits, the issue of recognizing the first language of second language students has emerged. This question will be reviewed in more detail in subsequent meetings as well as in discussions with our VP Academic and the Registrar’s Office. Currently TRU has not provided second language recognition to students who are fluent in a first language other than English. PLAR may provide TRU with such an opportunity.

### **C. Working Group 2 Focus: Ways to expand support and services available to international students.**

Objective #1: Establish a plan to enhance integration of international students; measurements of integration will be accomplished by comparing relevant National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results of international and domestic students.

IPA presented the NSSE 2008 results highlighting the areas that related to this objective. The report discussed sample proportionality, satisfaction scores, high and low scoring questions, and benchmark scores. As well, the specific questions identified by the SIAC working group have been examined. An additional document, giving the answer frequencies for each question, was also provided. A link to the psychometrics section of the NSSE website (report introduction) should provide the rationale and theory behind the structure of the survey questions.

Working Group 2 is in the process of reviewing the results in order to ascertain which benchmarks would assist to assess the enhanced integration of international students. Once this has been done, they will share these findings with the Senate Student Engagement Committee in order to facilitate collaboration.

### **D. Working Group 3a & 3b: Study Abroad Opportunities**

#### **Working Group a: Current Opportunities, Enablers and Detractors**

Objective #1: Conduct an audit of current opportunities.

- A call was sent out to all department chairs and the Study Abroad Office. We have collected the raw data in order to meet this objective. The next step is to meet to review and discuss the findings. This will be undertaken over the summer and early fall.

Objective #2: Undertake a survey to identify interests, enablers and constraints regarding students' participation in study abroad.

- The working group has determined that this objective will require dedicated resources for this task. A proposal will be made to secure the required resources, funding and expertise.
- The group will also reference the survey conducted at TRU in March 2009 by Sheryl Bond. Sheryl Bond is conducting research for both AUCC and CBIE. The results should be available by the end of the year.

#### **Working Group 3b: Recognition for International Experiences**

Objective #1: Establish credit and other forms of recognition for students who have undertaken international experiences.

- Lian Dumouchel is spearheading this action item and has established a new campus-wide advisory group.

Members of Working Group 3b: TRU International Academic Designation

1. Lian Dumouchel, Working group lead (Tourism)
2. Brenda Mathews, SIAC (Computing)
3. Annette Dominik (Arts)
4. Cheryl Lyall (Nursing) + Karen Abbott (back up)
5. Lisa Lake (SOBE)
6. Ray Pillar (Registrar's Office/Admissions)
7. Josh Keller (Student Recruitment)
8. Ross Nelson - ARTS/OL
9. Kyra Garson – Intercultural Consultant/Centre for Teaching and Learning
10. Jan Petrar (Study Abroad)

Goals:

1. To explore and assess "credit and other forms of formal recognition for students who have undertaken international experiences" at TRU.
2. To recommend the most appropriate model for TRU.

Resources and background information:

- a. SIAC "Definitions of Key Concepts and Terminology (Draft #4)" (Developed by SIAC Working Group 1, May 2009)
- b. "Internationalization of the Curriculum: A Practical Guide to Support Canadian Universities' Efforts" (2009) AUCC.
- c. Conduct a review of current initiatives of non-credit certificates completed in conjunction with another program in Canada and the USA. This will be a web-based search.

The next steps are to gather ideas from existing models and make recommendations for:

1. The requirements for the proposed certificate
2. The name & focus for the certificate (international, intercultural, global, world, etc.)

Report Submitted by SIAC Chair, Vera Wojna  
Questions and comments welcomed.

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