

International Education Committee Members: Co-Chairs Jenn Kruglinski/ Dave Phillips, plus Sherry Makrantz, Nitya Singh, Jennifer Cox, Deeya Mitra, James Parrigin, and Faculty Senate Representative Nicole Kulp.

*Priorities for the International Education Committee during the 2024-2025 academic year were:

1. Ongoing communication with faculty senate and school IECs regarding Study Abroad and CIE.
2. Continued support for and expansion of the SU in Global Campus model.
3. Publication of the Faculty Handbook on Study Abroad so all faculty are aware of policies and regulations involved in Study Abroad.
4. Increase SU Study Away and other similar partnerships.
5. Support for international students/faculty.
6. Publish policies re: pre-procurement and risk-management.

* All our priorities were put on hold with the Provost's late-November announcement about restructuring the CIE.

Meetings Summary

September

The committee discussed study abroad benefits, noting ongoing staffing, funding, and leadership challenges. CIE emphasizes global campuses, with SU's 12 exchange partners sending 800+ students abroad. The committee aims to enhance faculty engagement, archive data, and support expanding opportunities, including athletics-friendly and domestic exchanges.

October

The committee discussed priorities, motions, and integration of semester programs, addressing concerns over CIE's funding, staffing, and MOU control. Debates focused on governance and faculty autonomy. Updates included global campuses, partnerships with Korean and Japanese universities, and promoting accessible, data-driven study abroad models.

November

Discussions focused on IEC presentations, MOU updates, decentralization of international programs, and CIE's resource challenges. Winter enrollment increased by 10%. Ongoing collaborations and staffing changes were noted. Concerns included leadership confidence and planning visibility. Next steps include sharing materials, publishing proposals, and holding IEC and college meetings.

December

The IEC discussed finalizing presentations on Global Campus partnerships, SUCIE policies, and international education's decentralization. Financial aid strategies for winter/summer study abroad were reviewed. Concerns included limited funding, staff cuts, and misalignment between CIE's mission and administration goals. The committee emphasized faculty advocacy, strategic use of MOUs, and sustaining revenue-generating programs. SU's shift to a self-funding model challenges access, requiring clearer policies and faculty-supported infrastructure for global engagement.

February

The committee discussed responses to the Provost's November announcement and its impact on IEC. Concerns were raised about changes in faculty policies, particularly regarding Fulbright fellowships and

international education. The committee expressed frustration over a lack of communication from the administration, inadequate transparency, and challenges related to compensation for faculty involved in Fulbright programs. Additionally, there were discussions on administrative decisions affecting international student services, the role of the Provost in International Education, and the potential for policy changes. The committee stressed the need for better alignment and more faculty involvement in decision-making.

Faculty Senate Meeting (February)

The motion to give CIE a platform (such as Faculty Development Day) was amended to fit the theme, yet (with concerns about fairness and flexibility in international education) the motion was passed. A second motion on MOUs were tabled (for IEC involvement within the MOU process) but was later withdrawn, with the Provost publicly opposing changes.

March

President Lepre plans to expand study abroad and away opportunities at Salisbury University, but the IEC was troubled about recent changes (including funding cuts, staffing reductions, confusion regarding scholarship advising, and a lack of communication). Seeking clarification on how these changes align with strategic goals and accountability, the committee met with the Provost who shared positive comments about International Education, and was supportive for future growth (with respect to some “guard rails” i.e., training faculty for study abroad, opinions on the MOU process, and offering different perspectives on how to ‘do’ International Education). The committee was concerned the Provost may have been misinformed by contradictory dialog, and had not sought input from key stakeholders (such as the IEC). It was suggested the Provost had assumed the role of International Officer at SU, making changes *prior to* the implementation of the university strategic planning process. Therefore, the IEC asked to be part of the strategic planning process, and mutually agreed to identify strategic times during the AY to meet with the Provost directly to facilitate communication.

Future Implications

The committee is concerned that instability in the JDE Center over the past two years and now the decision to reassign the long-term leader in that unit will make it harder to achieve the President’s mission of expanding study abroad programs. The committee finds this move confusing. Using just the Purdue School as an example, over 50 business students are either signed up or in the process of enrolling for Fall and Winter programs. Additionally, the business school houses the INTB program, which has 72 majors and includes a mandatory study abroad component for graduation requiring clear guidance in order to advise students responsibly, while relying heavily on the specialist administrative and global expertise housed within SUCIE, built over the past nineteen years. Faculty Senate Bylaws charge the IEC with serving “as an advisory board to the Center for International Education,” and providing “policy oversight and review on international education and related programs,” among other duties, but the IEC is seeking clarification about the purpose and goals of the structural changes to the JDE Center and its leadership. The committee understands this to be a major loss of momentum for international education precisely at a moment that we can least afford it.

