

University Committee



on International Education

Office of the Provost

February 2010

Dear University Community:

As announced at the 2010 Opening Conference, the Office of the Provost is establishing the university-wide Committee on International Education. Six major priority areas have been identified for engagement of committee members. It is expected that members will identify best practices, serve two or three year terms and will be representative of the University community as a whole. Your participation on this important committee is invited.

Primary tasks to be addressed are as follows:

DEFINING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION: What do we mean by the terms "international education" or "internationalizing" the campus? Presumably all international activities of faculty, staff and students are part of this process. But it is important, as a first step, to clearly define goals and objectives to guide our efforts.

PRIORITY #1: FACULTY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES: The first step in internationalization of the campus is to internationalize the faculty. A significant proportion of the faculty must have international knowledge and experience as a base from which to develop a global, comparative, cross-cultural perspective in the curriculum and as a base to develop appropriate study abroad and international work experience opportunities for our students. The faculty development priorities we identified are:

PRIORITY #2: CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES: Faculty development will enlarge our resource base from which we can gradually deepen and broaden the comparative, cross-cultural and global content of the curriculum.

PRIORITY #3: STUDY ABROAD OBJECTIVES: Faculty development and internationalization of the curriculum are important steps in implementing the third objective of expanding study abroad opportunities. An internationally involved faculty model the value of international education for students; the "internationalized curriculum" provides the programmatic context into which students can integrate their course work and experiences abroad.

PRIORITY #4: FOREIGN LANGUAGES OBJECTIVES: Second language capability is not only a way to understand another culture but is also a skill that increasingly needed in the global, multicultural workplace. Language is the main way to gain entry into another culture. Graduates who have second language capability will be better positioned to compete in the global workplace.

PRIORITY #5: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OBJECTIVES: International students not only benefit from Cheyney's unique programs but should also be viewed as a resource for Cheyney University as we seek greater cross-cultural understanding.

PRIORITY #6: INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT OBJECTIVES: Reallocate the existing budget and seek to increase budget support for the OIP and other units so that the goals in this proposal can be realized. Provide additional support staff and/or released time for the OIP and other departments or units implementing international education objectives.

Please indicate your interest in serving by emailing me at provost@cheyney.edu. In your email, indicate your priority area of interest, your department, and any prior experience you would like to share that would make you an asset to this important initiative for Cheyney University. Thank you for your continued efforts and support for Cheyney University.

Sincerely,

Ivan Banks, Ed.D.
Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

Note. The proposed plan is adopted from Stout University of Wisconsin and is intended as a starting place for our efforts. (http://www.uwstout.edu/global/international_education_at_uw.htm#prioritize).