

Shawn Felton
President, Faculty Senate
Florida Gulf Coast University

September 3, 2015

Dear Shawn,

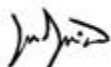
I have been in ongoing conversations with various colleagues who have participated in study abroad programs here at FGCU and others who teach subject matter with international focus or content. We share a common view that in the current collaborative, global and innovation age, an international education is an integral part of the pathway to global citizenship. To that end, FGCU should commit overtly to developing global citizens who: demonstrate knowledge of complexity and interconnectedness of environmental, socio-cultural, and geopolitical issues; communicate effectively within and among diverse cultural groups and respect the cultural and phenotypic differences and embrace a common humanity.

I circulated an email to gauge the level of interest in forming a faculty committee related to promoting campus internationalization. I received 12 favorable responses and two more who want to withhold participation until after a meeting where purpose and charge may be established. In my vision a committee on campus globalization would serve either under the office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies or as a standing committee under the aegis of the Faculty Senate-or perhaps both. It could be charged with tasks including the development of a strategic plan for campus internationalization, identification and cataloging of all current international activities, vetting and assessing study abroad programs. With time this list of responsibilities may come to include coordinating international educational opportunities and initiatives, fostering connections between international aspects of the curriculum and assessing the intercultural knowledge learning competency, formalizing international partnerships. The committee would also work to advance and gain recognition of FGCU's current and future international efforts (e.g. measurable awards such as those from NAFSA: Association of International Educators, Forum on Education Abroad and IIE), seek resources for international initiatives, evaluate and approve study abroad and perhaps domestic study away programs. Ultimately the group would work to ensure that all existing and future internationally inclined efforts will find a meaningful congruence within the framework of the university Mission Statement and Guiding Principles.

Please let me know if the FGCU Faculty Senate will support and nurture this initiative and how and when I can communicate to our colleagues a way to move this effort forward.

Yours with kind regards,

MRMcD,



Michael McDonald, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology
Florida Gulf Coast University