INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

- Sub-committee for Carole Weinstein Summer projects reviewed proposals and awarded 14 grants. 11 were awarded to students, 2 to staff members, and 1 to a faculty member. Projects will be conducted in Brazil, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, England, Mali, South Africa, Russia, Turkey, India, and Argentina. Two groups of students will be conducting collaborative research with faculty mentors: three students will be participating in an archeological dig in Turkey, conducted in collaboration with Bilkent University, Richmond’s exchange partner. Two others will be doing research on environmental and social issues in Costa Rica and Panama.

- Another sub-committee reviewed proposals for curriculum internationalization and awarded one proposal.

- Groundbreaking ceremony for the International Center was held on October 3. Completion is scheduled for July/August 2010. The Program Committee for the Center will begin work on April 30.

- 10 degree-seeking students were recipients of the Carole Weinstein Fellowship.

- The Provost approved funding for the Faculty Seminar on the Post-Soviet World: Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The 10 participants are from schools of arts and sciences, business, and continuing studies. One is a full professor, three associate professors, and four assistant professors. Academic fields represented: accounting, art and arts history, biology, theatre and dance, history, education, political science. David Brandenberger, Jeff Hass and Yvonne Howell contributed to the preparation of the group, as did external experts. For the first time, Richmond alumni were instrumental in on-site arrangements (in Almaty and Bishkek).

- The Committee discussed the content and implementation at Richmond of the Code of Ethics for Study Abroad and Good Practice Standards for Short-term Study Abroad Programs created by the Forum on Education Abroad.

- A number of new study abroad programs were discussed. Some were approved, others recognized as part of the University international portfolio. Among them: Global Business in a Digital World (India and China), Russia Today: Business and Politics of an Oil Superpower, and the New Middle East.

- A procedure for appealing study abroad decisions was created and approved. A sub-committee will review appeals.

- The Committee approved an exchange agreement with Maastricht University College.

- With the increase of student participation in collaborative research with faculty members, conducted abroad, the Committee discussed the urgent need for making all faculty aware of policies and procedures for taking students abroad and for the inclusion of all faculty involved in
such projects in training. Safety and liability are the most urgent concerns, but academic issues and cultural integration are equally important.

- A number of legal documents, exchange agreements, waivers, etc. relating to study abroad were reviewed and revised as a result of consultation with the University’s internal legal counsel.

- We had 266 students study abroad in the fall 2008 semester, 18 of whom stayed for the full academic year. In the spring 2009 term, we had 76 students so a total of 342 semesters and 324 bodies. 324 will be studying abroad in the fall ’09.

- Short-term abroad
  - Spring break: 12 SCS students travelled to Mexico as part of an SCS course, 23 undergraduates volunteered in Guatemala with the Guatemala Highland Support Project, 65 undergraduates traveled to central Europe with Schola Cantorum
  - Winter break: eight undergraduates and one graduate student traveled to United Arab Emirates and Qatar with Prof. Candace Deans as part of the business school course “Global Business in a Digital World”
  - Research abroad during the summer: two undergraduates each will be traveling with Professor Salisbury to Peru to conduct research in the Amazon (A&S grant)

- 271 international students were on campus during this academic year, 109 of them came from partner universities abroad.

- Visiting International Scholars on campus next year will include:
  - Istvan Nagy, Hungary: Hist 399: Early Islamic Period; Rel 238 Islam rel.
  - Maurizio Del Conte, Italy: Teaching law school courses
  - Paolo Emilio Landi, Italy: 20th Century Italian Theater, Italian
  - Boyowa Chokor, Nigeria: Teaching 2 courses in geography
  - Magnus Persson, Sweden: HIST 299 U.S. & THE MIDDLE EAST
  - Jean Paul Commelin, US/France: Danc 166 Intermed Ballet; Thtr 312 World Cultures

Submitted by Uliana Gabara, Chair
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