



DATE: September 19, 2024
TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Tracy Klein, Faculty Senate Chair
RE: Formation of a New Senate Committee Focusing on International Affairs

Background

As defined by the American Council on Education, **comprehensive internationalization** is a strategic, coordinated framework that integrates policies, programs, initiatives, and individuals to make colleges and universities more globally oriented and internationally connected. ¹ It is an ongoing, rather than static process.

In 2023-2024 WSU participated as a member of the 20th cohort of the **ACE Internationalization Lab**, a consultative process that assists universities in assessing their own scope and goals for comprehensive internationalization. Our participation in the Lab made WSU one of more than 175 institutions that have made a commitment to internationalization that advances their core mission.

The ACE lab report (Appendix 1) was developed with a team of faculty and administrators across the WSU system. Initial assessment of WSU's current practices identified multiple gaps in both institutional coordination and support of internationalization. Key areas which both impact and require faculty engagement include internationalization of the curriculum and financial support of faculty and students to research, teach, and study abroad.

Specific goals identified in the ACE lab report include:

- *Coordinating UCORE offerings with our internationalization goals*
- *Supporting faculty and visiting scholars to increase their impact*
- *Expanding opportunities for students to participate in international research and outreach*
- *Developing systemwide co-curricular international initiatives.*

WSU Senate Constitution and Bylaws

The WSU Senate has legislative powers in its constitution over standards of admission, curricula and courses to be offered, and requirements for graduation for Washington State University. ² The WSU Senate also has powers of recommendation for development and review of plans and policies to strengthen the educational program of the University. ²

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)

BPPM 10.42 **International Memorandums of Understanding and Agreement**³ authorizes signature by the President, Vice President or Provost and an administrator with signature authority at a partner organization to engage in an international agreement to provide specific services or activities internationally. These currently include:

- Research partnerships
- Student exchanges
- Faculty exchanges
- English language training programs
- Study abroad programs

- Internships

The Office of International Programs, led by Interim VP for International Programs Paul Whitney, currently administers MOUs on behalf of WSU (<https://ip.wsu.edu/>). There are currently 32 active MOUs between WSU and International institutions. Dr. Whitney presented an overview of this process at Senate Meeting on February 15, 2024 along with now retired Vice Chancellor for Pullman Asif Chaudhry.

Next Steps for the Faculty Senate

To facilitate internationalization of the WSU curriculum, there have been several development steps which require input and participation of the Faculty Senate. These include:

- **A conceptual review with the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees (March 2024)**

At its regular March 28, 2024, meeting the COC voted to approve the concept of an International Committee “in support of international cooperation and expansion efforts, with faculty engaging in international university partnerships support with transparency and accountability through the development process.” They further directed review with the Senate Executive Committee and forwarding a proposal for full Senate consideration in Fall 2024.

- **Drafting a proposed outline of a new International Affairs Senate Committee for full Senate review and approval (Summer 2024)**

Senate Chair-Elect and Committee on Committees’ Chair Klein developed and drafted today’s memo in collaboration and consultation with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, legal counsel Bowen, and the Office of International Programs. It is now presented as a discussion item for the full Faculty Senate.

- **Representation on the New Internationalization Coordinating Council (Fall 2024)**

Per Dr Whitney, the key next step from the ACE Lab report (Appendix 1) is the establishment of an **Internationalization Coordinating Council (name to be finalized)** which is formed by the Provost and represents constituencies across WSU. International Programs proposes to coordinate this Council, as a broad-based way for faculty and administrative members to advocate for and help steer implementation of all the recommendations in the report. This Council would not be part of the Faculty Senate, but Faculty Senate would be a constituency represented.

- **Approval of Educational Location at the University of Nairobi (2023-2024)**

On September 19, 2023, the WSU Board of Regents approved a request from Provost Elizabeth Chilton to submit an application to accreditor NWCCU establish an additional location for the College of Veterinary Medicine’s PhD in Biomedical Sciences to the University of Nairobi in Kenya (Appendix 2). The rationale for this proposal is provided in (Appendix 3). NWCCU approved this application on March 8, 2024. The Faculty Senate Steering Committee did a brief review and provided areas for consideration in May 2023. Extension of the degree to additional sites will require full Senate review.

Senate International Affairs Committee Composition

- 10 members, including eight faculty, one International Programs representative (ex officio, non-voting, and one global campus representative (ex officio, non-voting)
- Faculty members must have documented experience in curriculum development, teaching, administration, or research within programs or institutions internationally within the last 5 years



Function

The committee has advisory, consultative and interpretive roles in serving all the colleges, programs, and campuses of Washington State University focusing on:

- Advising the Provost's office and related academic units regarding WSU credit-bearing international degrees and programs taught by WSU Faculty prior to submission to the WSU Senate for full review and approval;
- Serving as a liaison to the Office of International Programs for curricular issues;
- Advising administrative units such as the Graduate School or Office of the Registrar regarding requirements for graduation from Washington State University when credit transfer, equivalency, or simultaneous requirements include internationally (non-US) obtained credits;
- Advocating for the continued internationalization of the University with periodic review as needed of the University's various administrative arrangements, policies and procedures for the conduct of international programs and activities;
- The committee shall inform the Faculty Senate about these activities and make recommendations to improve them if necessary.

Additional Notes

- Chair and Vice Chair elected by the Committee.
- Has representation on the Steering Committee.
- Whenever possible, at least one non-*ex officio* member of the International Affairs Committee shall serve on the Academic Affairs Committee
- Responsible to: Faculty Senate.
- Reports to: Faculty Senate Steering Committee

Motion:

1. Approve/Deny the International Affairs Committee as a standing/ad hoc committee of the WSU Senate

2. Direct the WSU Senate Committee on Committees to solicit nominations for membership

1 American Council on Education. Comprehensive internationalization framework.

<https://www.acenet.edu/Research-Insights/Pages/Internationalization/CIGE-Model-for-Comprehensive-Internationalization.aspx>

2 Washington State University. Faculty senate constitution and bylaws. <https://facsen.wsu.edu/>.

3 Washington State University. International memorandums of understanding and agreement.

<https://policies.wsu.edu/prf/index/manuals/business-policies-and-procedures-manual/bppm-10-42/>.