

Southern Connecticut State University

Global Education Advisory Committee (GEAC) By-Laws

November 2012

Article I. Definition and Authority:

A. Definition:

The GEAC is a Non All-University committee. GEAC is responsible for providing guidance to the Director of International Education in the planning and implementation of global education initiatives as well as procedures relating to global education at SCSU. The committee is partially elected by the faculty and partially appointed by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

B. Authority:

The GEAC derives its authority from the university's mission statement and strategic plan (2007-2012) as well as the final report of the Global Education Planning Council (2010-2011).

A focus on global learning is central to SCSU's mission and is highlighted in our Mission Statement and Strategic Plan (2007-2012): "Southern strives to empower every undergraduate and graduate student with the knowledge, skills, and perspectives essential for active participation and impassioned, ethical leadership in our rapidly changing global society" (Strategic Plan Section V. Mission Statement p. 15).

Parts of the strategic plan are even more direct. Section VI states that "keys to [students'] success will be excellence in critical thinking, problem solving, technological literacy, oral and written communication, cross-cultural competence, global awareness, and collaborative, ethical leadership (p. 17) and that "the university will prepare students for social responsibility and global citizenship" (p. 18).

The Global Education Planning Council (GEPC), implemented by then Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Selase Williams in the spring 2010 semester, re-emphasized the aforementioned focus through the development of this vision for Global Education at SCSU: "a campus community where global education is an integral part of the student, faculty, and staff experience" (Final Report, GEPC, 2011).

The GEPC made the following specific recommendation related to the establishment of the Global Education Advisory Committee (GEAC):

Transforming SCSU into a campus community where global education is an integral part of the student, faculty, and staff experience will require ongoing conversation. We, therefore, propose a continuation of the GEPC (or the creation of a similar body). This body must have representation from faculty, staff, and students and should meet on a regular basis, at least several times per semester. A combination of elected and appointed members is recommended to ensure broad representation, interests, and expertise.

(Final Report GEPC, 2011)

Article II. Membership:

A. Elected Membership:

The elected membership shall consist of two representatives from each of the academic schools. Full-time faculty are eligible for elected membership.

B. Appointed Membership:

The Associate VP of Academic Affairs may appoint two additional faculty members from each academic school, one representative of the GSAC, one representative of the SGA, and one representative of the Office of Student and University Affairs

C. Ex-Officio Membership:

The Director of International Education shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee; s/he shall be a non-voting member of the committee, but shall be allowed to make motions and participate in debate.

D. Time Commitment:

The time commitment will consist of approximately 3 full committee meetings per semester of 1-2 hours each, with varied additional time for individual and small group members' work on specific designated committee projects or tasks, for a total expected time commitment of 20-30 hours per semester.

E. Term of Election/Appointment:

Terms of those initially elected and appointed to the committee will be staggered, with 50% serving one year and 50% serving two years. Subsequently, members will serve two year terms.

Article III. Function:

The GEAC is responsible for providing guidance to the Director of International Education in the planning and implementation of global education initiatives as well as procedures relating to global education at SCSU. More specifically, the committee is responsible for:

1. To review and offer feedback to faculty developing new summer abroad and reciprocal exchange programs
2. To serve as a forum for exchange of information regarding the development of global education initiatives on campus
3. To use existing and find new sources of student and faculty funding to establish and operate summer study abroad programs and reciprocal exchange programs
4. To develop new global education courses
5. To influence and operationalize the SCSU strategic plan in regard to global education