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## Announcements

### Reorganization of the Office of International Programs

In Fall 2008, my office initiated a formal and comprehensive review of the Office of International Programs (OIP) and its constituent units in keeping with the spirit of campus policies that require a formal, comprehensive review of each academic unit and its leadership on a regular basis, and in light of the priorities of the University's new strategic plan. The purpose of the review was to assess the progress of OIP, its effectiveness in meeting short-and long-term challenges and opportunities, and the effectiveness of OIP's relationships with other units in the University. In addition, the review assessed OIP's preparedness in tackling the emerging issues that will need to be addressed over the next few years to significantly expand and strengthen the University's international programs. The review committee, chaired by Dr. Edward Montgomery, completed its work and submitted a report to me in May 2009.

I shared the report with Dr. Saul Sosnowski, Associate Provost for International Affairs, and received his formal feedback and constructive recommendations. In addition, I discussed the findings, assessments, and recommendations of the review committee with various knowledgeable people, some inside and some outside of OIP, to better inform myself of the circumstances. Furthermore, my office conducted a review of the finances and space in OIP.

Taking into account all the inputs I have received, I have decided that it is appropriate to undertake a reorganization of the Office of International Programs. OIP is an important unit within the University, and its importance will increase in the next few years as the University moves forward with the implementation of its Strategic Plan, a significant component of which will focus on advancing its international agenda. As such, it is essential that OIP be reorganized to sharpen its focus on advancing the University's ambitious international agenda, deepen its relationship with the academic programs, and accelerate its efforts in elevating the depth and breadth of the University's international activities and hence its stature.

The primary elements of the reorganization are outlined below. As the restructuring gets under way, small adjustments (such as changes of unit names) may also become necessary.

Maryland English Institute (MEI) will be relocated to the College of Education in order to benefit from the College's leadership and experience to improve its overall performance, improve its user satisfaction, and expand its activities.

The Office of Study Abroad which is currently within International Education Services (IES) will be elevated in status. In the reorganized structure, the Office of Study Abroad will report directly to the OIP Director.

Further, those components of IES that are responsible for international student admissions will be moved out of IES and into the Admissions Office and the Graduate School, as appropriate. This action will consolidate student admission issues where all other student admissions activities take place, therefore increasing efficiency and effectiveness and clarifying accountability.

The rest of IES will remain in OIP. It will be responsible for providing visa and other reporting requirements and related services to international students, faculty, staff, visitors, trainees, and other scholars.

The Institute for Global Chinese Affairs (IGCA) will stay within OIP but will be restructured into a unit with a broadened mission to serve the University as a "portal" for all Chinese programs and contacts as well as a model for other regional or country-specific entities.

Confucius Institute at Maryland (CIM) will remain intact and within OIP. The Director of CIM will report to the Director of OIP. OIP will encourage stronger interaction between CIM and appropriate academic units.

In addition, OIP will establish a new unit, tentatively called Center for Global Engagement (CGE), responsible for a host of initiatives (many of them already being carried out by OIP) aimed at expanding and enhancing the University's international agenda: Fulbright, Engineers without Borders, Peace Corps, coordinated fundraising and grant-writing activities, Ambassadorial Lecture Series, international research collaborations, Maryland International Festival, and other innovative programs. This Center will also focus on other initiatives and activities to advance the University's international agenda, such as housing for international visitors or a minor in Global Studies (in coordination with Undergraduate Studies), as well as reviewing and updating international MOUs.

The Global Communities Program will be restructured into a new program with similar goals but with improved organization, educational content, and faculty oversight and a much larger enrollment. The new programs will be administered by the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Studies and will explore the possibility of establishing formal ties with the Study Abroad Program and with the Language House.

A campus Advisory Board will be established by OIP. The Board will contain representation from faculty and staff with international experiences, deans, and students. The Advisory Board will assist the OIP leadership in setting priorities for campus international activities.

Associate Provost for International Affairs Saul Sosnowski, who is in his tenth years as the Director of OIP (last year of his second term), has graciously agreed to stay in his current position until June 30, 2010, and implement the above changes. My goal is to complete all of the organizational changes by the end of fall 2009. Sometime during the fall semester, we will initiate an internal search for a new director of OIP.

I am grateful to the review committee (listed below) for their thorough review of OIP and for their constructive and insightful recommendation. I wish to thank Dr. Sosnowski for his leadership over the past decade and especially for his willingness to implement the recommended changes. I am sure President Mote and I will call upon his extensive knowledge and experience in international affairs as the need arises. I also wish to express my gratitude to all OIP faculty and staff for their cooperation with the review committee and for their help during the transition period.

Sincerely, Nariman Farvardin  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

#### **Office of International Programs Review Committee**

Edward Montgomery, Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (Committee Chair)  
Antonio Busalacchi, Professor, Atmospheric and Oceanic Science; Director, Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC)  
Jane Fines, Director of Undergraduate Recruitment and Special Programs, Clark School of Engineering  
Anil Gupta, Tyser Professor, Smith School of Business; Research Director, Center for International Business Education and Research  
Phillip Hannam, Undergraduate, Mechanical Engineering; Truman Scholar; President, Engineers Without Borders  
Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak, Professor, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Director, Center for Persian Studies  
Anupama K. Kothari, PhD Student, Marketing, Smith School of Business; President, Graduate Student Government  
Phyllis Peres, Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs  
John Steinbruner, Professor, School of Public Policy; Director Center for International and Security Studies  
Nelly Stromquist, Professor, International Education  
Michael Ulrich, Associate Director, International Education Services, Study Abroad Office  
Cheng-I Wei, Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources