



Consolidation Committee Final Report



Committee Details

Date:	December 4, 2015
Committee Name:	International Programs #11
Committee Co-Chairs:	Jun Liu and Veronique Barnes
Functional Area:	Related Non-Degree Academic Responsibilities
Functional Area Coordinator:	Dr. Timothy Renick

List the major tasks your committee will need to take to accomplish your deliverables. Please provide more details for the tasks leading up to the SACSCOC Prospectus development.

Major Tasks for Committee Tracker from Final Planning Document and Recommendations

The following 4 programs across both institutions were identified as the key international program areas to be reviewed for consolidation into one Administrative and Operational structure: 1) Study Abroad, 2) International Student and Scholar Services, 3) International Programs and Projects, and 4) English as a Second Language Programs.

Sub-committees were formed with representatives from each respective area to accomplish the major tasks. The committees developed detailed comparison charts to identify areas of similarities or differences to determine programs aspects to consolidate or to preserve, to determine the extent of in-coming and out-going international activity as appropriate, and then conducted extensive reviews of policies and procedures to make the final recommendations listed for each area.

Area 1: Study Abroad

Task 1: Determine extent of incoming and outgoing international activity

On average, GSU sends between 775-825 students abroad via (50+) short-term, faculty-led and (45) exchange programs. GPC sends around 50 students abroad each year and currently operates 2 faculty led programs and is also a current member of the European Council (EC) which enables GPC students and faculty to participate in and lead the 10 short-term EC study abroad programs. GSU's Study Abroad office has 8 full-time staff. GPC does not have any full-time study abroad staff; rather, these programs are coordinated by 2 staff in addition to their other duties.

Task 2: Review, reconcile, and revise policies on international initiatives and services

Study Abroad (SA) Program Policies: GSU has crafted extensive policies for SA approval, renewal and management. These GSU policies could easily bring existing and potential GPC programs into alignment with GSU's SA program. (Please note: there is a distinction between SA programs and the course that students register for in order to participate in a designated SA program. Course registration is a much larger issue that will be resolved by other consolidation committees). If required, GPC faculty-led study abroad programs would easily transition to GSU faculty-led programs: GPC faculty would complete the GSU Study Abroad Program Approval Process and adhere to the GSU Study Abroad Management Policies.



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Study Abroad Program Applications/Student Compliance/Services: The above policy reconciliation/revisions would enable GPC study abroad programs to be integrated into the Terra Dotta software currently maintained and operated by GSU. Software integration would ensure all SA participants are compliant with GSU SA policies and would continue to ensure that GSU mitigates exposure with faculty and students abroad.

Study Abroad Initiatives/Outreach: GSU will host GPC faculty-led program directors at annual Fall/Spring study abroad fairs. Additionally, GSU Study Abroad Advisors would be able to host 'Study Abroad Information Sessions', or 'mini-fairs' at any and all GPC locations. GSU will also explore becoming a member of the European Council to ensure that the opportunity to participate in these programs continues for GPC students and faculty and also to extend this opportunity to GSU students and faculty moving forward.

Study Abroad Staffing: Although the 8, full-time GSU staff members will be able to coordinate the above outreach efforts at GPC locations, it will be critical that a GPC SA staff member is in place after the consolidation. GSU SA staff will potentially increase the number of inquiries for SA programs from GPC locations, these students will require hands-on assistance as they move through the enrollment process from inquiry to applicant and from applicant to SA participant. Specifically, a GPC/GSU SA staffer must be on-hand to assist students with Terra Dotta applications, visa applications, SA exchange program applications and scholarship applications. Terra Dotta training should be conducted for the GPC SA staff member(s).

International Education Fee: The GSU student International Education Fee (IEF) is currently \$19/term (\$38/year). The IEF funds both the IEF and GES (Global Experience) scholarship awards for GSU students.

Task 3: Consolidate International Programs into one administrative and operational structure

GSU and GPC will be consolidated into one administrative and operational structure to mirror GSU's study abroad model. GSU has more program models, larger numbers of students and faculty participating in study abroad programs and extensive policies which can be adapted by GPC's program.

1. Recommends that GPC faculty-led programs follow the GSU Study Abroad Program Approval Process and the requisite Study Abroad Management Policies beginning in the spring 2016.
2. Recommends that GSU explore membership with the European Council (EC).
3. Recommends that GSU and GPC collaborate and coordinate study abroad events at all GPC locations (run by GSU staff) and thereby increase Study Abroad outreach efforts at all GPC locations.
4. Presumably GSU/GPC International Education Fee determinations will be made by the Tuition and Fee Committee.



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Area 2: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
<p>Task 1: Determine extent of incoming and outgoing international activity</p> <p>In Fall 2014, GSU hosted a total of 1955 international students, while GPC hosted 569 international students, according to the latest Open Doors information. At GSU, 80% of the international student population is at the graduate level, with only 20% (386) in undergraduate study. GPC does not offer graduate level education, so 100% of their international student population is undergraduate. For both campuses, the top sending country for undergraduates is South Korea, and the next five countries are China, Vietnam, Cote d’Ivoire, India, and Nigeria. Currently, only GSU is able to enroll non-degree students (185) and host J1 exchange students (123), but these are areas of opportunity opened by the consolidation. All international scholar activity is at GSU, which hosted 349 researchers and professors in J1 and H1B status last year.</p> <p>Both institutions provide a myriad of international services and programs including immigration advising, orientation programs, cultural activities, international / intercultural student group advisement, and leadership development.</p>
<p>Task 2: Review, reconcile, and revise policies on international initiatives and services</p> <p>International Student Policies: All campuses in the U.S. authorized to host international students are subject to the Federal Regulations at: 8 CFR § 214.2(f). GSU’s adherence to these policies is well-documented. For example, GSU has a broader set of forms and a well-developed website dedicated to International Student policy and procedure. GSU’s forms can be adapted by the 2-year campuses. GSU will serve as the governing model across the consolidated institution in this area. Both international offices will coordinate policy review and adjust business practices where appropriate to best serve students and to maintain consistency and transparency of all relevant policies and procedures.</p> <p>International Scholar Policies: GSU’s policy regarding sponsorship for U.S. permanent resident status and H1B visas for its international faculty and staff was approved by GSU’s Administrative Council in 2008. The policy consolidates all immigration processing through ISSS instead of through various external firms. This will provide consistent service and decreased institutional risk across the consolidated university going forward.</p>
<p>Task 3: Reporting SEVIS Information to Homeland Security and maintain proper legal status for all international students on F1 and J1 visas</p> <p>The committee devised a detailed timeline for consolidating the two SEVIS programs into one. GSU and GPC DSO’s will work collaboratively to implement this plan after SACS approves the consolidation and after Banner records have been merged. Relevant conversations and have started and are on-going with and between Banner teams and ISSS staff at both institutions.</p>



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Task 4: Coordinate with Homeland Security

The committee prepared a SEVIS timeline that incorporates guidance from the Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) to the BOR (for consolidating institutions) to withdraw GPC's SEVP certification after all GPC records have been migrated to GSU's SEVIS Program. No further action could be taken to operate under one I-17 SEVIS Program until the consolidation is finalized/approved by the BOR.

Task 5: Consolidate International Programs into one administrative and operational structure

1. Recommends that Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia State University's immigration policies, guidelines, forms, and website content for compliance with Federal Regulations 8 CFR § 214.2(f) for F1 visa students are as consistent as possible across the institution.
2. Recommends extending GSU's J Exchange Visitor Program to the 2 year college.
3. Recommends examining and standardizing international student support programs and orientations to provide equivalent but tailored support and services to meet international student needs across the consolidated institution.
4. Recommends that the two institutions' F-1 Student & Exchange Visitor Information Systems (SEVIS) records be combined into one F-1 visa program once the consolidation has been approved by SACS and the BOR. International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) staff at both institutions will follow federal Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) guidance regarding the details of the SEVIS merger.

Area 3: International Programs and Projects

Task 1: Determine extent of incoming and outgoing international activity

GSU's Office of International Initiatives (OII) oversees several programs and projects both for students, including the Summer Institute, Global Ambassador Program, Spring Festival, and student organizations, and for faculty, including the Faculty Mentoring Program and the five emerging-market task forces. GSU has nearly 150 current agreements with 113 partners in 38 countries (ranging from university-wide MOUs to department-specific program specific agreements (PSAs) to Letters of Intent). While international initiatives in most countries are encouraged, OII focuses many of its initiatives on the five task force countries: Brazil, Greater China, Korea, South Africa, and Turkey. GSU has an International Advisory Board, comprised of one or two representatives from each College who help provide guidance to OII.

GPC offers numerous campus and community programs, including international clubs, cultural festivals, partnerships with community organizations, and service learning opportunities with an international/cross-cultural focus. GPC also plays host to conferences (e.g. USG-SCIE councils), and its faculty take strong leadership in the councils (e.g. serving as officers, leading faculty development workshops, participating in study abroad). GPC has one international partner, Temple University of Japan (GPC students may study there), and its agreement was renewed in Fall 2014. GPC no longer has its Internationalization Committee (approx. 15-20 faculty). However, one of the Committee's initiatives, the International Certificate, is still available to students (the certificate is issued through the Center for Teaching & Learning).



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Both institutions offer International Education Week programming.
<p>Task 2: Review, reconcile, and revise policies on international initiatives and services Each campus abides by state regulations regarding funding events and programming.</p> <p>There are numerous policies at GSU for initiating, maintaining, and terminating international agreements that GPC will adapt. Faculty and staff complete an International Travel Form when traveling for business purposes. When accepting international visitors and guests, departments complete the International Visitors Form. Both forms are available on OII’s website.</p>
<p>Task 3: Consolidate International Programs into one administrative and operational structure</p> <p>This task was discussed extensively within the subcommittee and numerous ideas and valuable recommendations ensued. However, these will have to be reviewed further post consolidation, because it was determined that consolidating these programs would involve staffing and structural changes that extend beyond the purview of the OWG committee and could not be considered further at this stage of the process.</p>
<p>Area 4: IEP and ESL Programs</p>
<p>Task 1: Determine extent of incoming and outgoing international activity A comprehensive review was done to determine the different types of ESL courses and programs offered at Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College. Both institutions provide language instruction to support the mission of the institutions and the needs of different types of non-native speakers. GSU and GPC offer three distinct instructional programs for English language learners and bilingual learners: (1) the Intensive English Program at Georgia State, a unit within the Department of Applied Linguistics/ESL, provides non-credit courses for pre-matriculated students; (2) the ESL Credit Program at Georgia State is part of the Department of Applied Linguistics/ESL and its faculty teach specialized sections of Human Communication and English Composition for bilingual/non-native speakers, and (3) the academic Department of ESL at Georgia Perimeter College ESL within the Division of Arts and Humanities, matriculates and enrolls ESL applicants in a select range of collegiate courses with co-registration in all required ESL courses.</p>
<p>Task 2: Review, reconcile, and revise policies on international initiatives and services These three programs do not overlap but rather dovetail to provide programming for both domestic and international non-native speakers of English to promote student success and retention. The admission and or enrollment/placement processes for each of these programs are also distinct. Therefore, policies and programs will not be reconciled.</p>
<p>Task 3: Consolidate International Programs into one administrative and operational structure The following two recommendations were developed and sent to the CIC for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommends that admissions and enrollment/placement policies are clarified and communicated to relevant units to ensure that students’ instructional needs are met. This



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- includes transfer policies from GSU-IEP to GPC and GPC to GSU.
2. Recommends that the IEP and ESL faculty and staff within both institutions work collaboratively to identify streamlined pathways to graduation at both institutions for increased student success at the consolidated institution.

After numerous discussions, revisions to the recommendations, and consultation, the sub-committee requested to be moved to OWG #18 Undergraduate Admissions where their new recommendations will be taken “under advisement”. Moreover, it was concluded after program comparisons and many deliberations of the sub-committee, along with further clarification from the area coordinator, that the ESL programs at both institutions should remain unchanged in that the ESL Programs and the related recommendations were ultimately not part of the responsibility of OWG #11.

Other/Final Comments (if any):

The recommendations set forth serve as guidelines for consolidating GSU and GPC Study Abroad Programs, International Student and Scholar Services offices, and International Programs and Projects with the recognition that these programs and services have unique features and needs by academic level that must be considered throughout this process. The need for reconciliation on practical implementation matters in international programs will continue to be identified and will develop as on-going tasks for the foreseeable future. During the courses of the consolidation work, international program representatives learned vast amounts of information about each institution’s programs, gained greater understanding and respect for the various areas and contributions each make to their institution. While GSU models will be adapted and followed overall in the areas of Study Abroad, International Programs and Initiatives, and International Student and Scholar Services, valuable take-a-ways from GPC programs, services, and practices will be incorporated where appropriate in the new consolidated institution.