

**Global Priorities Committee**  
**Report on activities, 2014-2015**  
**Susan Alberts (Committee chair)**

The Global Priorities Committee (GPC) is an advisory committee to the Vice President and Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Programs, and to the Provost. It also reports to the Academic Council. The committee comprises senior faculty members, six from schools with undergraduate bodies and six from the professional schools. The GPC is charged with reviewing and refining Duke's global strategy and assessing university and academic programs and activities operating globally, both when they are being created and in monitoring ongoing performance.

The committee meets monthly, and reviews a wide range of issues relevant to Duke's global mission. Below is a summary of some of the key topics covered by the GPC in the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Area Studies (Title VI) and International Studies**

Area Studies and International Studies at Duke are currently housed in OASIS (the Office of Area Studies and International Studies) in the John Hope Franklin Center. Duke has a decades-long history of Title VI support, which comes from the US Dept. of Education and has the mission to 'ensure a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages (LCTLs), world areas, and transnational trends.' In 2014 several Duke Title VI centers lost their federal funding, and several others experienced budget cuts. Duke's OGSP is viewing this as an opportunity to foster creative restructuring of OASIS and realize a more updated vision of international studies at Duke. We discussed Area Studies and OASIS at 3 meetings this year, vetting a number of ideas and recommendations. Planning is underway and a new structure and leadership will be in place as of July 1, 2015.

**Duke-Smithsonian Partnership**

The Smithsonian Institution sent a Delegation to visit on September 5, 2014, in order to explore possibilities for international collaboration. Areas of alignment and complementarity between Duke and Smithsonian were discussed, and a conversation has begun about whether research activities in China offer a particularly vibrant opportunity for partnering between the two institutions, particularly in the area of tropical conservation (see below).

**Tropical Conservation Initiative**

The Tropical Conservation Initiative (TCI) proposal was presented by Jeff Vincent in October, and it was unanimously well-received by the committee and by the Provost. This stimulating conversation included opportunities for growth, and areas to seek external support. The TCI has since launched with support from OGSP and the Office of DKU Programs and is a growing presence on Duke's international landscape.

**The Curriculum Change and Global Competencies**

Suzanne Shanahan visited the committee in November and summarized the curriculum committee's work. Her particular request of GPC was to provide insight about how Duke can better incorporate global student opportunities into the curriculum. The GPC made recommendations about providing more channels into Duke Engage and study abroad, and creating other meaningful global opportunities.

## **Duke Kunshan University**

The committee had a number of discussions about proposals and activities at DKU.

1. In November, Craig Roberts presented an update on the active set of global research programs that DIBS (Duke Institute for Brain Sciences) has in China, highlighting for the committee the many potential synergies with DKU.

2. In January, Erika Weinthal and Jim Zhang presented a proposal for an International Masters in Environmental Policy (IMEP) to be offered at DKU. This generated a considerable amount of discussion and feedback. A report on the discussion was sent to APC.

3. Also in January, Noah Pickus reported on the work of the Liberal Arts in China Council and the process of soliciting input and imagining a four-year liberal arts college in China.

4. In March, Jim Dobbins, the new Associate Vice Provost in the renamed Office of DKU Programs, gave an update on DKU and Phase II planning. During Phase II, the office will oversee the development of an undergraduate 4-year curriculum (the goal is to have the first 4-year students enrolled in the next 3-5 years), maintain and grow undergraduate study abroad at DKU, improve recruiting at both masters and undergraduate levels, and push the environmental management and policy program.

## **Duke-National University of Singapore Update**

In March, Mike Merson gave an overview of the establishment and development of the Duke-NUS medical school in Singapore, which has resulted in an extremely successful and mutually beneficial partnership between the two universities. Mike summarized several of the key elements of this successful endeavor, which included strong financial agreements, leadership that includes faculty from Duke, and a decision-making structure that allows for both partners to have very strong roles. Duke is now negotiating the phase III phase of the collaboration. Duke-NUS could serve in some ways as a model for DKU development.

### **Other topics covered, in brief, included:**

- OGSP's plans to formally assess global activities at Duke, which are underway.
- Participation in Duke's Strategic Planning by identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges specific to global strategies.
- Von der Heyden Fellowship, noting the success of Dame Alison Richard's visit and brainstorming about how to continue this level of success.