

**Global Priorities Committee**  
**Report on activities, 2016-2017**  
**Erika Weinthal (Committee chair)**

The Global Priorities Committee (GPC) is an advisory committee to the Vice President and Vice Provost for Global Affairs and to the Provost. It also reports to the Academic Priorities Committee. 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 their ongoing performance.

The committee comprises 12 faculty members: six from schools with undergraduate bodies and six from the professional schools. It meets monthly and reviews a wide range of topics relevant to Duke's global mission. Below is a summary of those topics covered by the GPC in the 2016-2017 academic year.

**Global Offices**

GPC continued advising the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) on the creation of small, agile offices to be located in countries with high levels of Duke activity. The offices will serve as coordinating sites for concentrated engagement and facilitate learning and research activities, study abroad programs (in collaboration with GEO), internships, and course and field opportunities. The offices will also serve as a footprint to attract the best students and faculty. The offices will help Duke address local and regional issues, while increasing awareness about their global interconnectedness. The committee agreed that OGA should move forward with establishment of these offices, starting in Bangalore; a business plan for the office is under development, finances are being identified, and an executive director for the office is under recruitment.

**Duke Kunshan University Phase II**

Following official approval of Phase II, the committee received an update from Jennifer Francis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, on progress made towards establishing the undergraduate program. This update focused largely on faculty recruitment, and touched on plans for student recruitment and development of the undergraduate majors and other aspects of the curriculum. The committee was impressed with the progress being made and provided its advice on these matters.

**Online Global Education**

GPC feels that global online learning remains an important topic of discussion, since digital connections can help facilitate international collaboration in an increasingly complex world. The committee received an update from Lynne O'Brien on the efforts of the Center for Information Technology on its global online education activities, and from Bruce Jentleson on the deliberations of the Advisory Committee for Online Education (ACOE), which he chairs. OGA is discussing with Matt Rascoff, the new Associate Vice Provost for Digital Education and Innovation, ways in which global online educational efforts can be expanded in the future.

**Strategic Plan**

Sally Kornbluth, Susan Lozier, and Noah Pickus attended the October GPC meeting to discuss the global activities of the draft strategic plan. The committee then provided written comments on the plan, suggesting that it more clearly build on Duke's previous and ongoing efforts in the global domain and more clearly describe the relationships between Duke's global and local activities.

## **Provostial Area Initiatives**

Last August GPC heard a year-in-review summary from the Africa and Brazil Initiatives, and in January discussed a proposal for a new India Initiative. The committee suggested that the African Initiative consider greater collaboration with Duke's Innovations in Healthcare, and that the Brazil Initiative might use Brazil as a jumping off point to explore working in other areas in South America. The committee provided advice on the India's initiative's objectives and recommended the initiative consider incorporating alumni engagement, since alumni are one of Duke's greatest strengths in India.

## **Research and Programs**

Throughout this academic year, GPC received reports from a number of other global initiatives and programs on campus.

1. The committee heard from Larry Carin, Vice Provost for Research, about the efforts his office is making to facilitate faculty working abroad and the global activities his office is fostering. The committee was impressed by these efforts, suggested that faculty be made more aware of them, and encouraged the VPR to think about how to expand these efforts into additional areas of research.
2. Kelly Brownell presented his plans for a new World Food Policy Center at Duke. The committee welcomed this initiative and suggested the center might leverage DKU, particularly since food safety is a significant public concern in China. The committee also suggested additional collaborators on campus for the Center.
3. The committee heard from Gavin Yamey about his newly launched and timely Center for Policy Impact in Global Health being supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and suggested ways in which students could be more involved.
4. Lee Baker and Catherine Mathers presented their major program in International Comparative Studies and suggested additional collaborations between ICS and Duke's area studies centers.
5. Timur Kuran, Professor of Economics and Political Science, shared an update on political developments in Turkey and discussed how they are affecting academic life in Turkey and Duke programming in Turkey in areas of research and global studies.
6. Fritz Mayer presented details about the Geneva Program on Global Policy and Governance run by the Sanford School every summer covering global health, environment, energy and economics, and humanitarian action. The committee discussed way to enroll more Duke students in the Program, finances allowing.
7. As its new Director, Indermit Gil gave a very impressive presentation on the future plans for the Duke Center for International Development (DCID). GPC suggested that DCID consider working more in the program evaluation arena and looked forward to learning more about its planned undergraduate certificate.
8. Robin Kirk, Director Duke's Human Rights Center at the Franklin Humanities Institute, presented the various activities undertaken by the Center. The committee suggested the center's staff consider seek ways to help increase awareness of their course offerings among students.

One can conclude that GPC had a very active year and is impressed by the growing wide array of global efforts at Duke and the number of global collaborations taking place among the different units at Duke. The GPC continues to encourage feedback from members of Academic Council on topics that the GPC should consider in its monthly meetings.