A NOTE FROM ACE ADVISOR DR. SUSAN CARVALHO

The ACE Internationalization Lab is led by a team of advisors who guide participating institutions. George Mason University works closely with ACE Advisor Dr. Susan Carvalho. Dr. Carvalho is associate provost and dean of the Graduate School at the University of Alabama, where she leads an agenda focused on growth and globalization of graduate education, including international graduate enrollments and services. Here is her most recent message for the MIC community:

“Certainly the current global crisis underscores the importance of every university having a forward-thinking international strategy in place. Having a good infrastructure for global decision-making, managing risk, taking good care of international students, managing study-abroad planning, and educating students to think globally have never been more critical. But, like all structured events this semester, the timetable and methodology for MIC planning will certainly need to be made more flexible.

These are times that test our resilience and creativity, on all fronts. Since MIC is in such a strong data-gathering phase of work, some timetables may have to be adjusted. Electronic surveys may be able to continue as scheduled – but a thoughtful preface will need to be written to help respondents get beyond the crisis of the current moment, to think more broadly about Mason’s mission and growth. Synchronous focus groups may be possible via WebEx or other technology, but it depends on how the broader workplace culture defines itself in the coming weeks.

Mason is at a transition point in more ways than some other universities, due to the leadership changes, and the resulting importance of drafting a global roadmap at this moment. If some types of data are impossible to obtain due to the current crisis, it may be that higher-level
recommendations are made at this time, for which a more specific implementation plan can be written later.

The Lab process is designed to be tailored to each institution’s culture and specific circumstances. ACE is available to provide whatever supports we can as MIC pushes forward, and as Mason—like all universities—begins to define its new community culture over the coming weeks. Webinars and consultative phone calls will continue, and ACE expresses its strong support for the members of MIC and all members of the Mason community during these challenging times.”

CURRENT STATUS: LAB PHASE II

In the second phase of the ACE Internationalization Lab, the key objectives are to collect and analyze data on current internationalization efforts and perspectives. Data collection will be conducted both by the collaborative as a whole and committees based on their key areas of focus.

The collaborative will organize a survey for all faculty at Mason and conduct benchmarking with peer institutions. The survey faced delays given the current situation; however, plans are to still move forward with this soon. In regard to benchmarking with peer institutions, it has been decided to use previously identified institutions by Mason leadership through the COACHE initiative. In fall 2019, COACHE results were compared to five self-selected peers: Iowa State University, North Carolina State University, Purdue University, University of Central Florida, and Virginia Tech. The leadership team and provost selected these peers based on factors such as: R1 Carnegie Classification, institutional size, number of faculty, and institutional mission.

Committees are compiling data from a variety of sources including self-studies utilizing the ACE internationalization toolkit, existing institutional records, online focus groups with stakeholders, informal surveys for specific campus populations, hosting virtual special events, and examining best practices at other institutions.

GMU LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

What are the challenges and opportunities for this initiative during a time of leadership changes for the university? In what ways can MIC report on internationalization efforts that will be most effective for newly incoming leaders? Interestingly, a third of ACE Internationalization Lab institutions undergo leadership changes during the process. This was the key topic of discussion on April 1 between the MIC Tri-Chairs and ACE Advisor. The Tri-Chairs will be consulting with Interim Provost Mark Ginsberg as well as MIC executive sponsors Michelle Marks, Vice President for Academic Innovations and New Ventures, and Rose Pascarell, Vice President for University Life. An update will follow during the next MIC team meeting.
The MIC Research Committee is organizing a virtual lightning talks session. This session will highlight faculty who are involved with research, scholarship, and creative activities in international locations or on international topics. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 8, 10 am - 12 pm via WebEx. This replaces the initially scheduled session during iWeek. You are highly encouraged to present and to widely share the online form with your colleagues: http://bit.ly/gmumiciweek

**Feedback for QEP Topic Finalists**

GMU Quality Enhancement Plan presentations are available and feedback is requested by April 17.

**MIC Network**

**ACE Internationalization Lab Advisor:** Susan Carvalho, Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, University of Alabama.

**MIC Tri-Chairs:** Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts; Karyn Kessler, Academic Director, INTO Mason; Pam Patterson, Associate Vice President for University Life.

**MIC Committee Co-Chairs:** Curriculum - Brian Platt and Ioulia Rytikova; Faculty Development - Supriya Baily and E. Shelley Reid; Student/Campus Life - Jessica Biddle and Lewis Forrest; Enrollment Management/Partnership - Nana Bonsu and Matt Sacco; Education Abroad - Marie alice Arnold and Lisa Bellingham; Research - Aurali Dade and Padhu Seshaiyer

**MIC Project Manager:** Amy Lewis

Comments and submissions for the MIC monthly newsletter? Contact mic@gmu.edu