



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

International Initiatives in Times of Financial Constraint

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International Education/Study Abroad

- Of the US college-going student body, overall, only 190,000 annually

- Predominantly majority:

| | 1993-94 | 2005-06 |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| Caucasian | 83.4 % | 83.0 % |
| Hispanic | 5.0 % | 5.4 % |
| African-American | 2.8 % | 3.5 % |

Institute of International Education data

What prevents diversifying Study Abroad?

- Institutional Resources/deployment
- Apparent reluctance of students of color
 - Financial concerns
 - Connections to/obligations to family and work
 - Fear
 - Concern about cultural barriers

- Short-Term Study Abroad – design to address student concerns and needs
 - Build onto standard semester-based courses
 - Bundle complementary courses
 - Facilitates planning for activities abroad
 - Allows students to enroll in up to 6 schs
 - Ensures sufficient enrollment to cover costs of faculty travel, ease travel arrangements

- Re-thinking study abroad/international ed
 - Cultural resources of urban/metro setting
 - Virtual student exchange/collaboration
 - Model United Nations

- Cultural Resources of the Urban/Metropolitan setting
 - Outreach to ethnic communities for cultural enrichment
 - Engagement with the consular corps
 - Partnering with multinational corporations and entities in the region

- Virtual student/faculty exchanges/collaboration
 - The plan:
 - Begin small – online collaboration, chat, reflection
 - Troubleshoot – technical, administrative issues
 - Build out to joint enrollment, shared faculty member
 - The opening projects
 - Bordeaux/Houston – Spanish/Translation course
 - Qatar/Houston – Sociology course

- Model United Nations
 - As (award winning) participants – along with 800 students from 6 nations – Universidad Tecnológico de Monterrey MEXMUN
 - As organizing hosts HOUMUN – 80 students from 5 countries serving as ambassadors representing 25 countries
 - As hosts and facilitators for Global Classrooms Model UN Conference

- Institutionalizing the Model UN Initiative
 - Global Classrooms Model UN
 - Establishing the University’s Model UN as an official student organization
 - Identifying faculty champions
 - Developing supportive curriculum

- What are the skills, knowledge, and attitudes we seek to promote?
 - Using the current financial crisis to re-see our plans and efforts
 - Study Abroad – refining logistics to ease access for diverse urban student body
 - Global Learning – designing initiatives to provide global learning opportunities for all our students

