



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## Memorandum

**To:** Ravi Pendse  
Marty Shawver

**From:** Gary L. Miller *GLM*

**Date:** February 1, 2007

**Subject:** Globalization/Internationalization

In my September 6, 2006 address to the faculty, I emphasized the importance of globalization as an essential part of the fabric of an urban serving research university:

*We have an obligation to develop a global focus at all levels of our academic programs. To extend the intellectual and practical global reach of our students serves both our urban mission and our obligation to prepare Kansas residents for productive lives in a fully connected world.*

This sentiment reflects not only a broad consensus among the nation's higher education leaders but, importantly, a key concern of the Kansas Board of Regents. This past fall, each Regents institution was asked to prepare a presentation to the Board regarding the globalization and internationalization programs on their campus. The Wichita State University presentation summarized a diverse array of more or less segregated international programs and initiatives.

The recent resignation of the Director of International Programs provides us with an opportunity to not only think about the goals and operation of that office but, importantly, to develop a strategic vision for how we might integrate programs and processes to "...develop a global focus at all levels of our academic programs." To do this, we must carefully examine all of our current efforts in globalization and internationalization, discover overlaps and synergies in those efforts, explore new and innovative approaches, understand what globalization means both in higher education and in the particular environment of Wichita State, and determine how we will measure progress toward a truly globalized academic program.

Such a task will take time and must involve a committed group of university leaders. To this end, I ask that the two of you work together to recommend a small (10 – 15) group of faculty, staff and administrators who are willing to work together in the coming spring and next academic year on this important initiative. I expect to charge the group to consider the following questions, among others:

1. What does it mean at WSU *To extend the intellectual and practical global reach of our students serves both our urban mission and our obligation to prepare Kansas residents for productive lives in a fully connected world?*
2. How can “globalization” be measured in the university? That is, if we committed to “a more globalized campus,” how would we measure progress?
3. What are the global education needs of local industry and business?
4. Is the university positioned to collaborate with local industry and business to meet their global education needs? If not, what changes in administrative structure, curriculum or overall approach would improve the response capability of the university?
5. Do the university educational (credit and non-credit) and extracurricular programs prepare students to interact productively in an increasingly global society and economy? If not, what specific and general changes or innovations would be required to improve the situation? How would improvement be measured?
6. What are the barriers to participation in study abroad opportunities by WSU students?
7. What are the barriers to faculty work abroad?
8. What are some of the imperatives of the urban-serving university mission that support innovative and creative thinking and action in globalization?
9. Are there specific characteristics of the local or state environment (including the economic, social, or higher education environment) of Wichita State University that either inhibit or enhance innovative and creative thinking and action in globalization?
10. How would an initiative to significantly enhance the global perspective of the WSU experience be designed in our current environment of faculty governance?
11. How might international programs, international admissions, student life, study abroad, academic exchange programs, and the plethora of other more or less independent international programs and initiatives be integrated in a way to build synergy among programs?

I think that it is important that the group reach out to experts and consultants in this area and I am prepared to fund this part of the group’s work.

Ultimately, I will ask the group to enter into discussions with me about how to reorient our administrative structures and programs to meet my goal of developing a global approach.

I would like to announce a working group by the end of February. I very much appreciate your assistance in this important matter. Please work closely with the Faculty Senate in this endeavor.

cc: Brigitte Roussel