

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: International Studies (BA, BS)

Majors and Minors, 2023-2024

Date: 2/28/2024

Invited: Provost John Chenoweth; Dean Jason Janke (Letters and Sciences); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Margo Kleinfeld/Jonathan Burkham; Dr. Pilar Melero; Audit & Review Team Chair Denise Roseland; Audit & Review team member Bill Miller; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

- a) The program coordinator, Dr. Burkham, reported an increase in enrollment faster than expected (his count was enrollment increasing to 22 from 11).
- b) He noted the implementation of the new curriculum this fall, including a revised introduction course in the major. This course is now available to all students as a general education elective. The course filled to capacity in fall 23.
- c) Study abroad continues to be a focal point of the program even though it is now optional.
- d) The Department Chair praised Dr. Burkham for his efforts to improve the program by revising the curriculum, and for his significant advising responsibilities, which is challenging for this interdisciplinary program. The department is very supportive of the program and provides resources as needed.
- e) The Review Team chair shared the strengths and areas of improvement noted by the review team's report (see summary below).

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Have a strategy to increase majors by 20% per year. What steps will the program take if it fails to meet this goal in Year 1?

As noted above, the program has already met their enrollment goals for the first year. The program noted the potential impact to their program's enrollment if we recruit more international students to campus. The Provost noted that we will likely see an increase in international students in the coming years. Regarding support of student travel, the Provost noted there are scholarship funds available for this purpose, and suggested the program have a conversation with the scholarship committees regarding the selection process. He also mentioned there may be options in the fundraising space to support student travel.

2 – What is the long-term process for setting program goals, and how are the advisory board members engaged in that process? Do you consult with external stakeholders? We are interested to learn how to program makes the goal setting and assessment processes a systematic.

Increase engagement of advisory council – mostly the council is used to discuss assessment work—goals of the program are not always the focus of the meetings because of the amount of assessment related tasks. Dr. Burkham is considering adding additional members to the council, maybe an external member. Discussion ensued regarding the value to including external members in moving strategic priorities forward. In addition, a recommendation was made to consider the value of the advisory council to department and college service. Dr. Melero commented on the success of the Race and Ethnic Studies program in developing an affiliated faculty approach to serving the interdisciplinary program in administrative tasks.

Provost suggested reviewing the curricular pathways from International Studies to International Business, and vice versa, and work collaboratively to meet the needs and interests of students who are interested in the international space.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Revisit the goals of the advisory group and include them in program initiatives such as formalizing mission and goal statements, marketing, and recruiting. Consider engaging alumni and external stakeholders in the field, to help market the employability and professional value of the program.

Recommended Action #2

Work with college administration to re-establish scholarships for travel studies and help market the program to improve enrollment.

Recommended Action #3

Given the decline in enrollment, the program should report on progress in increasing enrollment. Program itself sees this as a critical issue and so focus should be on progress made in service of this goal.

Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns

Next Self-study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2030 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2030

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.