

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Hoelscher, Chair, Faculty Council (hoelscher@austin.utexas.edu)
FROM: David Eaton
SUBJECT: Report of the Faculty Council's C-6 Committee on International Programs and Studies, Academic Year 2017-18
DATE: May 10, 2018

The Faculty Council's (FC) C-6 Committee on International Programs and Studies (C-6 Committee) supported diverse University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) stakeholders seeking to improve international programs. The C-6 Committee assisted the Office of the President (OP) in its effort to enhance international programs on campus by reviewing a draft faculty survey and providing feedback on other OP initiatives. The C-6 Committee facilitated the International Office's (IO) effort to enlarge the number of UT-Austin students traveling abroad. One new initiative is discussed below. The C-6 Committee supported fact-finding for several initiatives the UT-Austin Student Senate to improve student experience on international programs. One initiative was to increase the number of rooms on-campus available for international students. A second initiative was to develop a list of Maymester programs that have obtained a 'flag' designation.

The C-6 Committee moved forward on two initiatives begun last year. One initiative is to create a Campus International 'Student Ambassador' program to engage students within departments to visit classes to inform students about semester-long programs abroad for which academic credit has been approved previously. Correspondence has been sent to six units at UT-Austin for a test of the concept, to invite student visits to classrooms soon after the start of the 2018-19 academic year. The second initiative has been to develop materials that could be placed on a UT-Austin website of information for faculty of both obligations for support of students traveling outside of the US as well as information on UT-Austin services available to assist faculty in those activities. The C-6 Committee began clearance of the prose that could be included on the possible website. The prose clearance process will continue during Summer 2018, with an expectation that there will be a recommendation to the FC as to specific language and a specific website early during the 2018-19 academic year.

At its final meeting on May 7, 2018, the C-6 Committee decided on the following priorities for the 2018-2019 academic year:

1. Prepare for a trial of the 'Student Ambassadors' concept with willing departments. No action will be taken until FC and IO consent.
2. Prepare draft materials for a 'website insert' identifying priorities for faculty sending or taking students abroad. No action would be taken until the FC and IO consent.
3. Explore the option of increasing opportunities for incoming international students. No action would be taken until practical ideas are developed.
4. Explore with the UT Student Senate their preferences for supplemental information on international courses offered by UT-Austin regarding their approval status for UT flag requirements. No action would be taken until practical ideas are developed.

5. Explore with the UT Student Senate their preferences for increasing the number of students appointed each year to the C-6 Committee. No action would be taken until practical ideas are developed.

The C-6 Committee also selected as its new chair: Professor Melissa Murphy, Senior Lecturer, Spanish and Portuguese, email: mmurphy@austin.utexas.edu, phone: 512-232-7126.

Correspondences regarding the C-6 Committee can be sent during Summer 2018 to Professor Murphy.

As none of the other C-6 Committee members volunteered to be C-6 Vice Chair, Professor Eaton agreed to serve as Vice Chair during the 2018-19 academic year, until a replacement can be named.