Engaging unusual suspects in organizational change for education abroad
Forum on Education Abroad 2015 Annual Conference, New Orleans

Education abroad professionals can turn to internal auditors and lawyers as key partners in influencing sustained organizational change on campus. These unusual suspects will highlight their proactive contributions to education abroad strategic planning and policy development in contrast to their perceived reactive and problem-solving roles.

U-M Panelists

- Amy Conger, Assistant Vice Provost for Global and Engaged Education, aconger@umich.edu
- Lorraine Currie, Senior Manager of University Audits, ldcurrie@umich.edu
- Donica Varner, Associate General Counsel, dvarner@umich.edu
- Sandra Wiley, Director of International Study Programs, Stamps School of Art & Design, Chair of the Council on Global Engagement, swiley@umich.edu

Discussion Questions

1. How can we better align education abroad goals, planning and business needs with other campus operations?

2. Who are some less visible contributors to these efforts?

3. What are some concrete mechanisms for building collaboration among these stakeholders?

4. How do our panelists’ approaches align with your own institution? How do they differ? What needs to be clarified?

5. What success stories can you share with the participants?
This organizational chart maps depicts the units of U-M panelists in this session; it is not inclusive of all executive officers and/or reporting units. For more detail: http://spg.umich.edu/org-charts/a-z

- Decentralized education abroad structure, with 30+ offices running programs
- No central education abroad office
- U-M ranked 6th in the nation for education abroad for academic credit (Open Doors 2014)
- 2,365 students abroad for academic credit; 1,041 students abroad for co-curricular learning (2012-2013)
University of Michigan Resources

**Council on Global Engagement (CGE):** Founded in 2008, CGE provides expert advice to campus leadership on strategic initiatives for international education. Members identify common challenges and develop solutions that meet the needs of our diverse campus community. They also provide feedback on university policies and business processes related to education abroad. CGE members are appointed by their respective Deans and include both faculty and professional staff with decision-making authority for education abroad (both academic and co-curricular, undergraduate and graduate levels), on-campus programs with a global emphasis, and support for incoming international students and scholars. The Vice Provost for Global and Engaged Education (VPGEE) manages the Council on behalf of the Provost.

**Global Michigan:** This web portal highlights U-M’s international impact through news stories and galleries for external audiences. It also houses education abroad program information, administrative tools and policy guidance for U-M’s internal stakeholders (faculty, staff and students). [http://global.umich.edu/](http://global.umich.edu/)

**International Education Network:** Established in 2015, this community of practice is open to all U-M faculty and staff with responsibility for international programs, including education abroad, international students and scholars, and campus-wide support services that connect with this work. This group complements the policy work of the smaller CGE. Members meet on a monthly basis to share best practices and resources and to facilitate regular communication across our decentralized campus.

**M-Compass:** Our campus-wide, online system for education abroad application management (vendor product). [https://mcompass.umich.edu/](https://mcompass.umich.edu/)

**Office of General Counsel (OGC):** The Office of the Vice President and General Counsel represents and advises the entire University of Michigan community, including the Board of Regents, the President, the Executive Officers, the University of Michigan Health System, and the schools and colleges on all three campuses. OGC is in the service business. They help clients fulfill their educational, research, and entrepreneurial missions in accord with the myriad of legal and policy requirements applicable to public research universities. OGC staff are subject matter experts and problem solvers committed to helping our clients achieve their goals in a creative, practical, and timely manner. [http://www.ogc.umich.edu/](http://www.ogc.umich.edu/)

**Resilient Travel:** This is our first completed project from the Council on Global Education Abroad Resource Grant (CGER), a funding program that encourages cross-campus collaboration and the development of shared tools. The resilient travel site helps students manage stress and think proactively about the challenges they may encounter while abroad. [http://global.umich.edu/going-abroad/planning/resiliency-and-stress-management/](http://global.umich.edu/going-abroad/planning/resiliency-and-stress-management/)

**Standard Practice Guide (SPG) on International Travel:** The U-M’s International Travel Policy is intended to promote the health, safety, and security of all members of the University community while traveling abroad. The University respects the academic freedom of faculty to pursue their scholarly endeavors through international travel. As such, this policy is designed to support the international engagement of its students, faculty, and staff in a responsible manner. [http://spg.umich.edu/policy/601.31](http://spg.umich.edu/policy/601.31)

**University Audits:** The Office of University Audits provides independent auditing, consulting, and training to assist management in balancing operational efficiency with risk identification, assessment, and control. Reporting to the President and Board of Regents and collaboration with management enhances assurance and accountability at all levels of the university community. University Audits staff members are committed to supporting the university with objective assurance and advisory services that assess risk and promote a strong internal control environment. [http://audits.umich.edu/](http://audits.umich.edu/)

**University Libraries:** A key partner in building online research guides for education abroad participants: [http://guides.lib.umich.edu/studyabroad](http://guides.lib.umich.edu/studyabroad)