
Updates from the Forum Council Review Task Force

Boston, Forum Annual Conference
March 22, 2018



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THE
FORUM
ON EDUCATION
ABROAD

Today's Session

- Overview of The Forum & Task Force
- Recommended changes to the functioning of the Council, Board, and Staff
- Suggested timeline
- Q&A



The Forum on Education Abroad



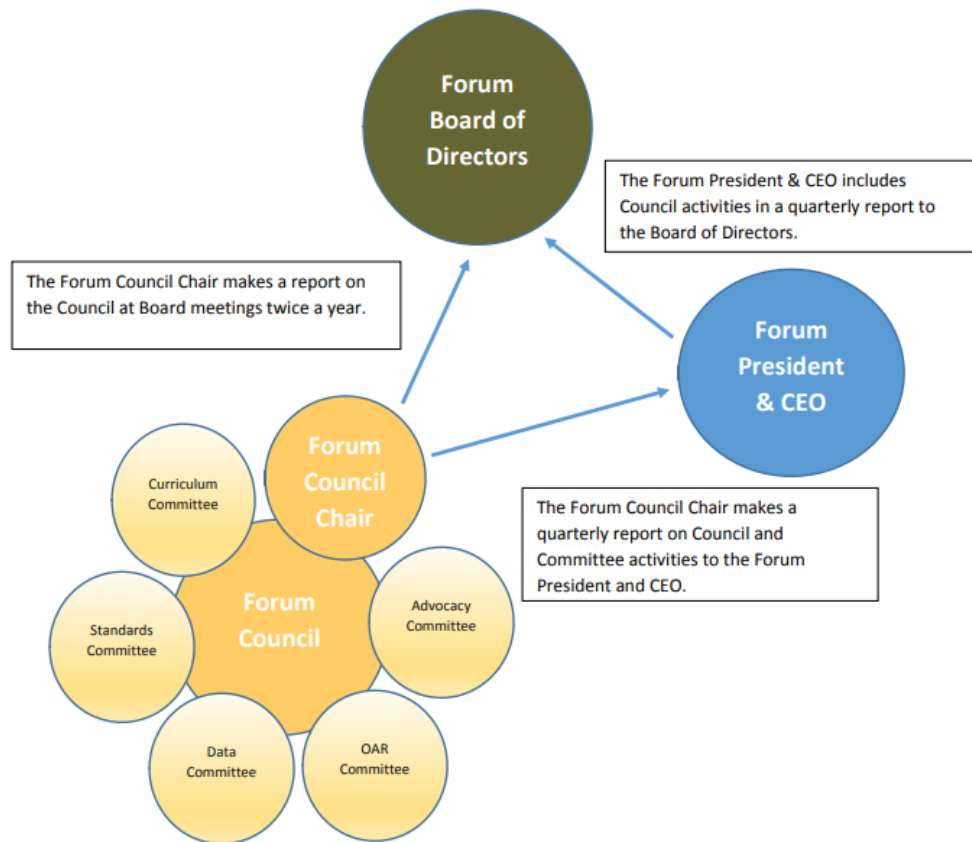
- Not-for-profit association, founded 2001
- Based at Dickinson College, with fulltime staff of 9
- Recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission as the Standards Development Organization (SDO) for education abroad
- Members are committed to the Forum's Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad

Membership

- Approximately 800 institutional members that collectively represent over 90% of U.S. students that study abroad
- Members are primarily U.S. colleges and universities, program provider organizations, overseas host institutions and programs, and affiliates that provide services to the field
- Members enjoy a wide range of benefits and services that help them to meet *The Forum's Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad*



Organization



- 3 primary bodies: Board, Council, & Staff
- Standing committees reporting to the Council

New Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

- Implemented with a/an:
 - Understanding of the past, present, and future of the organization
 - Focus on students, member institutions & field of education abroad
 - Commitment to the Standards of Good Practice, excellence and aspiration
 - A need to build on prior investment and innovation
- Four primary areas of growth:
 - Foster critical dialogue
 - Further education, training, outreach and professional development
 - Expand & diversify membership
 - Serve the field with a collective voice



Guiding Questions

- Charge given by Chair of Board, Mary Anne Grant:
 - What is the proper division of labor between volunteer Council members and professional staff?
 - How do we ensure dialogue and input from practitioners in the field regarding content of various Forum products and services with the need to move things forward in a timely manner?
 - How is the Council's agenda set, by whom and in what time frame?
 - Processes and procedures
 - Relationship of the Council with Board

Task Force Members



- Nick Gozik, *Chair* (Boston College, *Chair of Forum Council*)
- Amelia Dietrich (*The Forum*)
- John Lucas (ISEP, *Member of Forum Board*)
- Donna Scarborough (George Washington University, *Member of Forum Board*)
- Alicia Stanley (Grinnell College, *Vice Chair of Forum Council*)
- Annmarie Whalen (*The Forum*)

Timeline

- 2016-17: Development of Strategic Plan, with input from many constituents
- March 2017: Task Force assembled
- July 2017: Initial ideas presented to Council & Board
- November 2017: Draft of proposal to Council
- January 2018: Revised draft to Board
- March 2018: Outreach to committees on related changes
- March/April 2018: Input from membership, at conference and via website
- May 2018 (anticipated): Final review by Board

Council

Council members work collaboratively with Forum staff to produce member programs, services and benefits.

- Context: Role has evolved over time
- Proposal:
 - Continue regular Council meetings and conference calls.
 - Shared leadership and regular meetings between Board, Council, and professional staff.
 - Work more clearly driven by the Strategic Plan.
 - Greater visibility, connecting with members at large to gain input and ideas.

Committees and Working Groups

Council has accomplished much work to date through 5 Standing Committees: Advocacy, Curriculum, Data, Outcomes Assessment & Research, Standards

- Context: Difficult to maintain momentum aside from annual projects, despite excellent work by committed members
- Proposal:
 - Replace Standing Committees with committees and working groups that have clear objectives, expected results, and deadlines.
 - Maintain existing annual committees such as Annual Conference, European Conference, Academic Achievement Awards.
 - Establish new working groups through collaborative effort between Council and staff.
 - Recruit members through open calls, and continue to include a staff liaison and, ideally, a Council member.
 - Encourage a larger number of more diverse members to be involved.

Enhancing Diversity

The Council seeks to engage diverse representatives from education abroad and higher education to represent the breadth of The Forum's membership

- Proposal:
 - Continue considering diversity in recruiting new members for the Council and all committees and working groups, both in terms of background and institution.
 - Assign member of the annual Council Nominations Subcommittee to identify and actively reach out to potentially diverse candidates.
 - Contribute to one of the Strategic Plan's goals of expanding Forum membership among institutions and organizations that are currently underrepresented, especially non-U.S. universities, community colleges, minority-serving institutions, and businesses and organizations that provide support services for education abroad.

Staff

Staff members work with volunteers to complete projects efficiently and in response to the needs of the membership and the field at large

- Context: Larger, more professionalized staff
- Proposal:
 - Continue to seek regular input from Council before, during, and after projects.
 - More collaboration with Council at the pre-project phase: idea generation, priority and timeline of projects, determining volunteer needs.
 - More opportunity for staff members to take an active role in working groups and leverage staff expertise and skills when needed, e.g., preparing a first draft of a new resource to be vetted

Board of Directors

The Board is responsible for the overall mission and goals of the organization as well as fiduciary and legal oversight.

- Proposal:
 - Continue to meet annually with the Council and staff jointly to discuss strategic plan and issues affecting the membership.
 - More opportunities for the Board to have direct interaction with Forum membership.

Shared Leadership

- The Board of Directors, Forum Council, and professional staff will all continue to work together to ensure that the organization is meeting the goals set by the strategic plan and responding to the needs and priorities of the membership.
- This includes prioritizing diversity of participants at all levels and ensuring active participation of many voices.
- Striving to maintain the highest level of transparency in all that we do.

Next steps

- Your feedback!
- Collect further input from Forum membership
- May 2018: Final version presented to the Board for vote
- If approved:
 - Ongoing projects will continue.
 - Current committee members will be given the opportunity to transition to new working groups.
 - At July 2018 Council meeting, projects and working groups will be planned for the coming year.

Q & A



Thank you for your participation!
What questions do you have?