

**Advance Experiential Learning  
Narrative Discussion  
June 6, 2010**

After a year of discussion the Advance Experiential Learning committee has identified our main initiatives as travel study, study abroad, and undergraduate research. We are still actively involved in the plans to enhance first-year programs and early career internships, but the primary responsibility for those initiatives has been shifted to other units or working groups.

Our primary initiatives are designed to help us reach the 2014 strategic planning objectives for international learning (25% of all ISU students) and experiential learning (100% of all degree programs and 100% of all ISU students). As outlined in our budget proposal, we want to provide funds, on a competitive basis, for faculty and students to travel in the United States or internationally as part of a class experience. We will encourage faculty to think creatively in order to infuse travel study into their curriculum. These experiences could be of any length, but most probably of a week or two since they would occur during a semester or the three-week summer term. Funds would be available to support student and faculty travel, as well as faculty and program development. In addition, we propose dedicating significant funds to support “traditional,” semester-long Study Abroad experiences. The goal will be to support students who would not otherwise be able to undertake a SA experience due to financial constraints.

We also seek to support faculty who infuse their undergraduate curriculum with experiential learning and research. Considering undergraduate research in the broadest possible terms of information gathering and analysis, we propose to encourage faculty and students to undertake research as defined by the faculty in the discipline. An UG Fellowship program (modeled on the lines of the McNair Scholars) would provide a stipend for highly qualified students to conduct original research. Reflecting our mission statement and ISU’s historic role in the state, preference might be given for projects that focus on Indiana. We also want to establish an UG Research Center (along the lines of the Writing Center) that would use graduate students and faculty to support UG research. The UG Research Center would also oversee the production of an on-line journal devoted to UG student work, which would also be displayed in an annual showcase. Finally, we would provide funds—also on a competitive basis—for faculty who want to use other forms of experiential learning in the classroom. This would allow for the most imaginative sort of curricular revisions or experimentation that might not be supported elsewhere, including creative or professional development projects.

During summer and fall 2010 the Advance Experiential Learning committee will develop plans for implementing our proposed programs (reviewing and funding proposals, for instance). Several of our initiatives can begin almost immediately (#s 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8, in particular); others (#s 3, 6, and 7) will take a bit more time to plan, but would begin formally in the spring, 2011 semester. All of the initiatives, of course, we hope to establish as long-term, ongoing programs that help ISU to meet our 2014 strategic planning objectives.