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A CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

University Cooperation In A Global
Environment:
Towards An Agenda For Action

The Closing Consensus Statement of
the Meeting of

The Association of Latin American
Universities Entrusted to the Society of
Jesus (AUSJAL)
and
The Association of Jesuit Colleges and
Universities (AJCU)

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico
City
June 21-22, 2002

After consideration of the discussion papers prepared especially for this meeting and after consideration of the many options presented by participants, the group agreed to the following points for consensus and practical action steps.

Points of Consensus

- 1) We gather in response to Father Kolvenbach's call for increased collaboration among Jesuit colleges and universities worldwide, but especially in our region. The AUSJAL-AJCU collaboration we seek is a genuine partnership with mutual benefits to both partners in our pursuit of the common good for the region and of the goals for Jesuit higher education today. Our simultaneously local, national and global identity as Jesuit institutions offer both a great opportunity and a great responsibility.
- 2) Globalization is a defining phenomenon of our times. Capable of leading to great advances in every dimension of society for many, it has also brought greater poverty and misery for countless others. Globalization creates a special opportunity for AUSJAL and AJCU institutions to share experience, expertise, resources and leadership in efforts to humanize a process and reality that is inevitable.
- 3) Our universities are called to respond to this phenomenon through a variety of strategies for developing the international programs and outreach of our colleges and universities, and to educate students "in solidarity with the real world."
- 4) AUSJAL and AJCU institutions already engage in a number of programs and exchanges, but we are challenged to engage in more (and more effective) joint projects through networking and better communication.
- 5) This internationalization and collaboration will call for strong leadership, vision, persuasion, encouragement and support.
- 6) A catalyst for all of this can and should be our common Ignatian identity, especially as expressed in the recent 34th General Congregation. Thus AUSJAL and AJCU schools should share resources and best practices for fostering Jesuit (Ignatian) identity and developing a "critical mass" of Jesuits and colleagues needed to foster that identity.
- 7) We should collaborate wherever possible with provincials and their staffs on international projects, e.g., the upcoming (September, 2002) meeting on migration issues.

Some Practical Steps

- 1) In response to globalization, "Internationalizing" each campus in ways that are appropriate to that campus, e.g., through institution-wide commitment and strategic planning to address the curriculum, international students and staff, internal support and external coalitions, international programming, etc.
- 2) Identifying and organizing experts for analysis and research leading to policy alternatives and dialogue with decision-makers on:
 - Globalization (This is already being done for the November, 2002 conference at Santa Clara University, so that we endorse that conference and look forward to its conclusions.)
 - Migration issues (AUSJAL and AJCU schools will identify experts and explore the feasibility of a conference similar to the one on globalization. More immediately, the AJCU will be represented by Dr. Lois Lorentzen, a faculty member at the University of San Francisco and an expert on migration, at the meeting of North and Latin American provincials on migration in September, 2002.)
 - Poverty and the increasing gap between rich and poor. (Similarly, we will identify experts from our schools to address this issue and make recommendations for further action.)
- 3) Better communication of the strengths and weaknesses of existing programs, e.g.:
 - Better use of the two websites and various listservs.
 - Convene representatives of the ten current Latin American Studies programs in AJCU schools with some of their Latin American colleagues to discuss mutual expectations.
 - Share mutual immersion experiences with North American students in Latin America and Latin American students working with migrants in the U.S., and explore possible joint immersion experiences by both AUSJAL and AJCU students.
- 4) Evaluate and improve existing faculty exchanges; try more short-term exchanges of groups of faculty to deal with specific issues.
- 5) Consult with business deans about the feasibility of a collaborative MBA, somewhat like the Beijing MBA.
- 6) Take advantage of the upcoming (Spring, 2003) joint meeting of AUSJAL and AJCU Information Technology Directors in Mexico and the meeting of AJCU and Continuing Education Deans in Ecuador to develop more collaboration with on-line courses.
- 7) Establish a resource center, e.g., on our Websites, for best practices for fostering Ignatian identity and developing a "critical mass" of Jesuits and colleagues committed to that identity.
- 8) Use AUSJAL and AJCU offices for connecting needs with resources and information, e.g., re: alumni, development.
- 9) Report back in six months and again in twelve months on progress made on the above. AUSJAL and AJCU can then decide whether a larger meeting is feasible/advisable. Such a meeting might include a wider representation than presidents.

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