



Association of International Education Administrators
Leaders in International Higher Education

Dear AIEA Colleagues,

These are truly exciting times in international higher education! The role of the SIO is becoming increasingly complex as many different stakeholders in our institutions are recognizing the importance of global engagement. The depth and scope of this engagement across our institutions is increasing with partnerships, student programs, branch campuses, and other initiatives being developed by multiple stakeholders. We have the challenge of supporting, applying best practices, guiding, and coordinating many of these initiatives (if they have been brought to our attention, that is!) that are often championed and lead by individuals with whom we can collaborate, but who we cannot necessarily influence to make decisions that best meet the needs of students, faculty, and the institution or represent the best use of university resources. We often have to rely on our skills of diplomacy, articulation of the benefits our offices bring to a project, and explanations of the institution's global vision as well as our role. Often, our roles are not clearly defined by the university leadership. At times it seems that everyone at the institution expects our offices to be involved in all projects or communication with the word "global" or "international" in it, while at other times, our institutional colleagues can be very territorial with "their" global initiatives. Even when developing a new partnership with an institution abroad, there are many competing factors: the faculty member who is championing the partnership, Education Abroad staff, faculty who may already have a partnership in the same location or focused on the same majors/students, legal requirements, institutional policy regarding agreements, the partner institution's leadership, and sometimes external stakeholders.

Considering these complexities, it is increasingly important for AIEA to provide opportunities for leaders in our field to connect with not only other organizations focused on international higher education, but also with associations serving members that have similar roles at our institutions and with whom we could partner to advance initiatives. One of these associations is the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE). AIEA is beginning to collaborate with NADOHE on several initiatives and we hope that members of both associations can learn from each other. For example, diversity officers face a similar challenge of having a coordinating role. Their scope of work tends to be as loosely defined and as broad as that of the SIO. Often, there tends to be confusion on campuses regarding the intersection of diversity and international.



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The position of chief diversity officer is a relatively young one in higher education that is still evolving and is not yet seen as a standard position in higher education institutions as are chief information officers or chief financial officers, similar to the SIO position. To explore these issues and also to advance our focus on diversity in our field, AIEA is partnering with NADOHE at the 2014 Annual AIEA Conference to hold a session focused on the intersection of these two roles in higher education and how Chief Diversity Officers and SIOs can better collaborate at our institutions. We are planning to develop a similar session at the next NADOHE conference. AIEA seeks to partner with NADOHE on other initiatives as well and would also like to encourage our membership to consider attending a NADOHE conference.

On the topic of advancing diversity in international higher education, AIEA will be represented by Dr. Darla Deardorff, Executive Director of AIEA, and myself at the Global Dialogue hosted by the International Education Association of South Africa (IEASA) in Port Elizabeth this January. This discussion forum is intended to address the future of internationalization from a global perspective, including the developing world, which is often not fully represented in dialogues in our field. This has resulted in internationalization initiatives to sometimes have a negative impact on higher education in developing nations and an imbalance in advancing internationalization across the globe. The AIEA leadership hopes to develop a better understanding of the issues facing international higher education in developing countries and improve AIEA's capacity for inclusiveness of members and conference attendees from the developing world. AIEA intends to provide an effective forum for SIO colleagues from all regions of the world and to foster a better understanding of issues in our field between the North and the South.

I would like to call on our membership to reach out to colleagues in Africa, SE and Central Asia, South America, and the Middle East to learn about their challenges that we may all be able to address together and how they envision the future of international higher education. Please join the AIEA leadership in this initiative. It will assist all of us to effectively advance our institutions' global priorities as we manage the increasing complexity of the SIO role.



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We look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming 2014 AIEA Annual Conference on Feb 16-19 in Washington D.C. Thank you for your continued involvement and leadership in our organization.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sabine C. Klahr
AIEA President