

MEMORANDUM

TO: Paul Kubicek, Oakland University
FROM: Elaine Carey, Dean of CAS
DATE April 2, 2022
RE: International Studies Review

I wish to thank Dr. Paul Kubicek for his work on the International Studies Program Review and Dr. Patrick O'Neil for his review. Both have addressed the challenges that currently confront interdisciplinary area studies. I am a product and beneficiary of area studies programs and funding. The value of ISP cannot be understated due to the changes in the workplace and the growing demands of contemporary employers who seek cultural capacity and knowledge.

While there are enrollment challenges in OU's International Studies Program, there remains a growing need for professionals who demonstrated global and intercultural knowledge and competence and civic knowledge and engagement at a local and global scale.¹ This is especially true among employers under forty who insist that exposure to global learning experiences is important to their industry.² The ideas proposed by Dr. O'Neil, 4 + 1, dual majors, and Peace Corp Prep Certificates, are important to consider as a future direction Dr. Kubicek's considerations for consolidation in certain areas may be helpful. These proposals should promote further discussion among the faculty in ISP.

The loss of area studies faculty has also hindered the ability to sustain and maintain vibrant programs. In a metropolitan area such as Detroit that has global industries and workforce, ISP has potential. It is important to consider the needs in the College of Art and Sciences and Oakland University as it seeks to meet the demands of the disciplines within the college along with students' expectations and professional needs from teaching global social studies curricula to being a leader of a global company. Global competence that is demanded by contemporary employers must be considered as we seek to strengthen ISP while reviewing those areas that may need to expand or diversify to meet the disciplinary professional guidelines (which are becoming more global). I encourage the faculty to consider these disciplinary innovations as they consider how to build viable programs that attract students.

¹ See AAC&U's Essential Learning Outcomes, <https://www.aacu.org/initiatives/value-initiative/essential-learning-outcomes>.

² Collen Flaherty, "What Employers Want," *Inside Higher Ed* (April 6, 2021), <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/04/06/aacu-survey-finds-employers-want-candidates-liberal-arts-skills-cite-preparedness>