Draft PIC Global Opportunities Initiative for review, revision and costing

While considering the various recommendations, made by not only by the Global Task Force but also by other groups concerning globalization at WPI, and specific opportunities that have been identified by WPI's development office, PIC has come to the conclusion that perhaps the way has been prepared for a bold innovative step and such a step is warranted by programs and practices already now functioning. This step, PIC believes, is necessary to enhance the academic underpinning of the proliferating overseas project centers, to improve and globalize many of the on-campus IQPs, to introduce a graduate and research component to our Global Perspective Program and to create a focus point through which the outside world might perceive WPI as the preeminent gateway for student experience and education in global issues at the intersection of technology and society.

This new initiative would utilize the resources WPI has among its international alumni as well as among retired business and diplomatic personnel in the U.S. and elsewhere. We hope to attract support from those who find favor with the new style of global awareness, responsibility and cooperation that we have been promoting as an essential part of the WPI student experience.

Council for Global Studies
PIC believes the best way to generate the synergy for such a dramatic expansion of WPI's Global efforts is to create an umbrella entity to encompass all of the tasks mentioned: an Interdisciplinary Council for Global Studies (CGS) with a chair of international renown with whom the heads of the various segments of IGSD would cooperate in bringing about the expansion of our Global Studies offerings.

The members of the Council would include:

1. The Directors of the IGSD
2. Rotating Ambassadors in residence, recruited by the chair to assist in the development of new strategic alliances for WPI, as visiting lecturers to be utilized on campus to enhance our classroom experience and off campus at other universities to further WPI's recognition.
3. Faculty from various Departments who have been identified as directly supporting WPI's commitment to providing a solid academic preparation for global studies.
4. Directors of new research centers and continuing education efforts that arise from the opportunities created by this new thrust.

PIC anticipates that the chair of the Council for Global Studies might well be drawn from the early retirement lists of diplomacy or international business—a figure of the caliber, for example, of Paul Allaire from Xerox, or perhaps Richard Holbrooke or Morton Halperin from the diplomatic/government sphere, or Sam Nunn or Walter Mondale from the political realm.

The intent would be to obtain entree into new business and diplomatic venues through the experience and stature of this figure; to break the barrier of poor name recognition that WPI sometimes suffers so that our outstanding program can promote itself through proper introduction. The CGS chair would be our roving diplomat charged with gaining admission for WPI into the highest levels of global commerce and culture. The CGS chair would work with the directors of the IGSD, our faculty and our development staff to identify and capture new opportunities for WPI in every form of intellectual pursuit of a global nature.

Tasks that the Council for Global Studies would oversee include:

1. The solidification of the academic preparation for IQPs through the use of experts either hired through the IGSD or the H & A or SSPS departments. These visitors and new faculty would provide Area Studies backgrounds as well as methodological sophistication to IQP students.

2. The solicitation and involvement of WPI's international alumni and WPI's new President's International Advisory Board (holding its first meeting April 1, 1998). The expertise, funding and connections that these alumni could contribute would be brought to bear in strengthening our current off campus project program. By starting this dialogue WPI may also find ways to enlarge our expertise and realm of endeavor in global issues.

We are beginning to experiment with off campus MQPs, which would have not been a possibility without the way having been paved by years of IQP efforts. The interactions suggested here may someday lead to new global programs that tie to our graduate programs, faculty research and perhaps even new academic programs.

**Graduate Studies, Research and Continuing Education**

In keeping with the notions introduced by the SPSC goals, it is appropriate to ask whether the WPI campus can be brought into more complete harmony by extending the influence of the Global Program into the realms of graduate studies, faculty scholarship and continuing education. The creation of the CGS, proposed above, provides an opportunity
to fuel and launch new and innovative programs that expand upon our successful undergraduate theme and complete our academic offering by offering a fully dimensional experience for faculty and students.

PIC recommends that the CGS work with academic departments and the Provost’s office to identify specific opportunities for research development and introduction of innovative degree and non-degree granting programs through grants solicited from foundations and international supporters, identified by the CGS members, and strategic investments in new faculty hires.

Global Virtual Classroom
While we continue to grow our off-campus project center based program in global technology, policy and culture which places our students throughout the world, in this second stage of development we would also introduce an innovative use of interactive television technology to create virtual project classrooms for the world. By bringing the world to WPI we hope to enliven and enrich the content of many more IQP, SUFF and MQP experiences and to create cooperative projects that use on campus students to assist off campus students in a show of technology-enabled geographically-distributed collaboration.

The Global Classroom would also allow us to bring the world and its technological leaders into our lectures. It is our belief that such interactions on campus will assist us in the development of further technological and intellectual contact with overseas companies and communities that will open their doors and extend their resources to increase our deployment of and enhance the quality of our off campus project centers.

Continued Investment in the Global Perspectives Program
The creation of the CGS chair position and initiation of this program would be packaged with further increases in our investment in WPI’s overall Global Program as described in the task force report. PIC endorses investments as part of this initiative toward the following goals:

1. Solidifying the academic foundations of the globalization efforts;
2. Relieving some of the strains of student financing of the overseas experience;

PIC seeks the assistance of the IGSD during the PIC initiative review period to identify a cohesive set of investments, but we imagine such investments might include:
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

a. Create endowed Faculty Chairs to secure faculty expertise in Anthropology, International Relations, and Areas Studies to complement WPI overseas IQP centers—with priorities given to Latin America and Asia.

b. Endow a student travel scholarship fund to aid students with demonstrated needs in accomplishing projects at WPI's overseas centers.

c. Support the H&A and SSPS departments in planning Area Studies sufficiency projects and SSPS courses as preparation for overseas IQPs.

d. Support faculty for in-house sabbaticals to CGS programs to pursue global research or to create new technological interactions aimed at enhancing project learning and execution.

e. Endow a faculty development fund for proposals to the CGS by WPI faculty to enhance their global expertise.

f. Support the academic departments to develop MQP centers off campus and abroad.