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Panel Discussion Proposal Faculty Exchanges as a Way to Increase Globalization in the IS Curriculum

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Panel Discussion Proposal

Faculty Exchanges as a Way to Increase Globalization in the IS Curriculum

Part 1: Statement of the panel topic and the target audience

The business environment has expanded to a point that many companies compete on a global level. The technologies are the same the world over, but the conditions in which they are used may be very different. Many of the information systems (IS) courses are affected by global impacts. For example, most introductory MIS books have a chapter or large part of a chapter on globalization. Databases must be designed for use across countries and continents.

Communications technologies connect organizations all over the globe. Outsourcing and offshoring have had a profound impact on IS employment and have created new IS jobs.

It is vitally important for business faculty, especially IS faculty, to understand both the global environment in which they will work and the similarities and differences among countries, cultures, languages, and global work practices. By developing this understanding, faculty can bring this knowledge to the classroom.

One way that faculty can obtain a more global view of the business world is by participating in faculty exchanges. According to our definition, a faculty exchange is when a faculty member travels to another country to live, usually for several months to a year, and they function as a faculty member at the foreign university. This experience allows the faculty member to immerse himself/herself in the culture of the foreign country and bring a greater understanding of globalization back to the classroom. It also allows faculty and students in the country being visited to experience some of the culture of the visiting faculty. Faculty who experience such a faculty exchange should be able to use the experience to enhance the educational experience at their home institutions.

This panel is aimed at all faculty that would like to experience a faculty exchange. Also, universities that might like to participate in faculty exchanges or find exchange professors.

Part 2: Statement of the panel objectives

This panel will bring together four faculty members who have participated in faculty exchanges during the last few years (some have had more than one faculty exchange) and includes one faculty member from Australia who is currently on a faculty exchange to a U.S. university. Panelists will present their experiences from participating in faculty exchanges and how they have utilized these faculty exchanges to increase globalization in their classes and enhance the curriculum in their IS department. Some of the areas that will be addressed by the panelists include:

- Research experiences of visiting faculty
- Challenges and experiences of teaching in a foreign country
- Realizations and impacts influencing courses taught when returning to the home institution
- Practical aspects of faculty exchanges, including:
 - Finding “foreign” universities for exchange

- Living situations
- Language requirements and challenges in non-English speaking countries
- Funding issues
- Lessons learned from the faculty exchange(s)

Part 3: Statement of the panel format

Each panel member will make a 10 minute presentation on their experience with their faculty exchanges (Note: most panel members have had more than one faculty exchange). After making presentations, the panelists will take questions from the audience and participate in a dialog of the topic with audience members.

Part 4: Short Bio of each panelist, and the panel facilitator, emphasizing those aspects in the bio that make the individual highly qualified to serve on the given panel

Panel moderator: **Albert L. Harris**

Panelists:

Mary Granger, George Washington University

Joey George, Florida State University

Geoff Dick, Australian School of Business

Al Harris, Appalachian State University

Mary J. Granger is a Professor at George Washington University. She taught at the Warsaw School of Economics in Warsaw, Poland as a Fulbright Scholar (2003) and was a visiting Professor at Corvinus University in Budapest, Hungary (2009). With another Fulbright grant and living in Mongolia, she assisted the Institute of Economics and Finance (2006) in establishing their Information Systems curriculum. She also taught in Bangkok, Thailand and will be teaching in Dalian, China during the summer 2010. She was editor of the Journal of Informatics Education Research for over 10 years and is currently the AIS VP for education.

Joey F. George is Professor of Information Systems and the Thomas L. Williams Jr. Eminent Scholar in Information Systems in the MIS Department in the College of Business at Florida State University. His research interests focus on the use of information systems in the workplace, including deceptive computer-mediated communication, computer-based monitoring, and group support systems. He was the Editor-in-Chief of Communications of the Association for Information Systems from 2006-2009, and he currently serves as a Senior Editor for Information Systems Research. In 2008, he was selected as a Fellow of the AIS. He is currently the President-Elect of AIS and will assume the presidency on July 1, 2010. In 1999, he taught in the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration International MBA Program, in Mikkeli, Finland. In 2008, he taught at the University of Canterbury, in Christchurch, New Zealand, as part of the Visiting Erskine Fellowship program.

Geoffrey Dick is currently a Professor of Computer Information Systems at Dowling College, Long Island NY, on leave from his position at the University of New South Wales in Sydney Australia. Geoff is a visiting professor at Georgia Southern University, where he has spent two previous sabbaticals. In addition he has held visiting positions at the Tec de Monterrey in

Mexico and the University of Agder in Norway and taught in Malaysia, Singapore and The Gambia. He is a reviewer on the global textbooks project, a Director of the International Telework Academy and a screening editor for the Journal of Information and Management.

Albert L. Harris is a Professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems at the John A. Walker College of Business, Appalachian State University. Al was an exchange professor to the University of Angers, France for the 2008-09 academic year. He lived in Angers, France from September, 2008 to June, 2009. He also was a Fulbright Scholar to the University of Évora for April-June 2006. During that time, he lived in Évora, Portugal, taught graduate classes in Information Technology, and performed research with Portuguese scholars. He also served as a visiting faculty to the University of Maryland, University College in the United Kingdom and Heidelberg, Germany for the Fall semester 2001. He also teaches every September at the Fachhochschule Vorarlberg in Dornbirn, Austria. He was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Information Systems Education from 2000-2010.

Part 5: Statement of any equipment needed

The panel would need the ability to project PPT presentations for the audience to see.