

Global Encounter-Brazil: Moving Toward Action

Cultural Hybridizations

Group Report Out

Procedure used to generate this document:

Participants were asked to answer these questions in the pre-writing phase and before any group discussion:

What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within this theme area?

What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities in this theme area?

What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to this theme area as well as in general)?

Do you want to be contacted for meetings/work *on this theme* and *Brazil* in the futures (and for other themes listed at the top of the previous page or in other Lusophone countries)?
If yes, indicate which themes and country/countries.

Additional comments?

After the pre-writing period, the group discussed questions 1-3. The report to the entire group should reflect the ideas the group wanted most to share with the larger group. These report-out notes are taken from the presentation the group facilitator made to the plenary session.

What *factors* can help explain the gap between where we are today and where we want to be on the items discussed earlier within the cultural hybridization theme?

- For dual degrees to work, language requirements must work both ways. The history relative to providing Portuguese has not been good. The new faculty member is working to improve the image.

- Need stability of the Portuguese program
 - More courses
 - More faculty
 - More public relations- all faculty need to help spread the information about the new and improved Portuguese offerings.
 - More advising and recruitment of students into Portuguese
- Need other types of activities (art, music, etc.) related to Brazilian culture to help build an interest in Brazil and help students broaden their horizons; there is a general lack of information about Brazil.
- There are areas where Brazil is technologically more advanced and American students could learn from an exchange program, but for that to happen we really need to have good language requirements. Perhaps the residential college may be a start.

What *barriers/challenges* exist for MSU in acting on the opportunities within the cultural hybridization theme?

- Major universities within Brazil do not charge tuition. Exchanges with undergraduates must take this into consideration. Need to be fair to have a good balance.
- European and Canadian universities have an advantage relative to MSU
- There is a danger of spreading too thin over initiatives. Not every collaboration is long lasting and the university should start by supporting what is already in place in terms of collaboration. We need to start small to be successful.
- Short term collaborations are in general a waste of time and resources.
- There is a need to evaluate and strategize in terms of Brazil.
- It is very unclear about whether what seems to work for China will work with Brazil.
- Related activities are not rewarded at the university

What *advice* do you have for MSU concerning addressing the challenges and barriers to success as we move forward on the Brazil initiative (related to the theme area and as will in general)?

- Do not follow the China and India model for Brazil. The reality is very different. Brazil is a western country.
- Start small with collaborations that are already in place and build from these.

- Support faculty exchange, organize conference/workshop, provide university seed money for research/grant, recruitment of graduate students and exchange of students. (One can lead to the other.) Then move to a Dual Degree.

This material was generated from Global Encounter-Brazil, <<http://www.isp.msu.edu/globalencounter/brazil>>, held at Michigan State University on November 7, 2006. This interactive and participatory event was designed to obtain input and to elaborate in a country-specific forum on relevant themes, opportunities, issues, and opportunities affecting MSU's current and future engagement in Brazil (and to some degree Lusophone countries).