Global Engagement (Yana Cornish, Director of Education Abroad)
The university’s strategic goal is to have 35% of students participate in global experiences by 2020. The institution currently has 26% of students participating. Of COE May 2016 graduates, 23% of undergraduate students and 6% of graduate students participated in study abroad. Nationally 5% participation is considered strong, so UGA and COE participation is exceptional. COE is 5th among all UGA colleges and schools for participation. Across the board there is much greater participation by undergraduates, but efforts are being made to engage more graduate students in study abroad.

Another goal for participation in study abroad is to mirror the demographic breakdown of the UGA student body. Thus, OIE has recently instituted a scholarship open to diverse students. Encourage students to pursue scholarships to enable them to study abroad. The office is available to support students who might see study abroad as out of reach or who may have reservations about study abroad.

Most students (80%) who travel abroad participate in short-term programs rather than semester or year-long programs. Embedded study abroad in a 3-credit hour course is a new option in which the study abroad piece is for only a portion of a semester.

The new Go Abroad Portal (http://goabroad.uga.edu) includes resources for academic advisors, online credit card payments for deposits, automatic insurance enrollment, automatic enrollment for State Department travel support, program evaluation tools, new publications to better inform students about opportunities, and more.

Faculty Senate Updates (Ellen Evans)
There was no Faculty Senate meeting in December. The Senate is engaged in developing a leadership pipeline to identify the next president-elect. There was some discussion of whether a 3-year term for Senators discourages engagement.

PhD Recruitment Weekend (Anneliese Singh)
Invitations to candidates went out today asking to respond with travel needs by early January. Please send nominations for student panelists to Anneliese ASAP. The weekend is January 27-29.
OVPI Updates (Laura Bierema)
A search for the Director of the Office of Online Learning is underway, and Laura is on the search committee. This position is of significant interest to COE as we have a large number of online courses and programs

UGA has 1700 cross-listed courses with some listed across as many as 9 departments, which is confusing to students. (A cross-listed course is across prefixes, such as STAT/EMAT 6050. This does NOT refer to 4000/6000 or 5000/7000 courses with the same prefix.) The administration would like to minimize cross-listing to avoid student confusion. Departments will be receiving a list of their cross-listed courses and a rubric for reasons to cross-list courses and asked to begin a discussion with faculty about the need for cross-listing of courses.

Student Learning Outcomes are getting a lot of attention because of the upcoming SACS 5-year interim report in 2018. Graduate programs are now required to report on one student learning outcome per year.

System-level attention to low-yield degrees is continuing, so we should expect to see additional scrutiny in this area.

There has been a 35% increase in summer enrollment over the last 2 years. The Provost is providing additional funding, particularly for courses that allow for timely degree completion.

New software for advisement called DegreeWorks Planner is in soft-launch and is being used by all advisors in COE. This software allows students and advisors to map out a 4-year plan of study and run scenarios, such as including study abroad or internship. The program has not been rolled out for graduate advisement, but there was interest, particularly for masters and EdS programs. Interested departments are asked to follow up with Stacey to coordinate a request to the Graduate School. For the planner to be useful, however, departments must have a multi-year course schedule in place.

Because we combined our MA and EdS programs at the college level, there is no longer a mechanism for reviewing EdS programs at the department level during Program Review. The university’s program review committee is looking at this issue.