

# Fulbright Advisory Committee

## Annual Report AY 2024-2025

### Membership

**Chair(s):** Michelle Cude, College of Education

Leslie Pusey, Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI)

**Members:** Bud Clarke, John Hulsey, Sasha Kokhan (Oleksandr), Jennifer Coffman, Erika Metzler Sawin, Holly Yanacek, JY Zhou

**Charge:** The Fulbright Advisory Committee supports student and faculty Fulbright participation by promoting the program across the colleges, advising on institutional involvement, and communicating developments with their respective units.

### Summary of Annual Activity:

#### Report and Discussion on Fulbright Scholar-In-Residence (SIR) Program

- Michelle informed the committee of four potential candidates for the SIR program including the sponsoring departments. Of the candidates, three were from Arts & Letters and one from College of Education. Further discussion of SIR included appropriate ownership of Fulbright SIR which would manage housing, funds, campus nomination cycles, etc.
- After federal policy changes and cuts to IIE staffing (furloughs, dismissals), the committee decided not to pursue SIR applications for this upcoming cycle (due June 2025)

#### Report and Discussion on Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program

- Michelle reported that she assisted about five application processes this cycle (Sept 2024 deadline) and was anticipating results. However, the aforementioned federal policy changes and cuts to IIE staffing have resulted in little-to-no information as of April 2025.
- The committee will continue to promote Fulbright activities while keeping abreast of ongoing changes.

#### Report and Discussion on Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Leslie reported that 22 Students and alum applied for the 2025-2026 Cycle (tied with last year)

- 5 apps to Spain (one grad, one alum, all ETA)
- 1 to Andorra (ETA)
- 1 to Taiwan (ETA)
- 1 to Italy (ETA)
- 4 to the UK (all S/R - Masters)
- 2 to Mexico (one binational business app, 1 ETA)
- 2 to the Netherlands (both S/R - Master's)
- 1 to Switzerland (ETA)
- 1 to Germany (S/R)

- 1 to Laos (ETA)
  - 1 to Indonesia (ETA)
  - 1 to Czech Republic (ETA)
  - 1 to South Korea (ETA)
- Christopher Handwerk, has been selected as an inaugural Fulbright-John Lewis Civil Rights Fellow for academic year 2024-2025, an enhancement program that provides fellows with access to activities such as a dedicated lecture series, leadership training, and other professional development activities, as well as a capstone seminar after the completion of their Fulbright Program. These activities are in addition to, and complement, the Fellows' Fulbright projects.
  - By the end of January 2025, nine students were semifinalists with a yield of 50%.
  - Aforementioned federal policy changes and cuts to IIE staffing resulted in little-to-no information as of April 2025.
  - In April 2025, Leslie updated the committee about how recent Executive Orders were impacting review processes for government-related fellowships.
  - At the end of the Spring 2025 semester, Leslie hosted 7 virtual Fulbright information sessions with current and/or former Fulbrighters.
  - Further, Leslie continued outreach across campus with events, advising hours, and classroom visits with the Honors College, Center for Global Engagement, the Reddix Center for First-Generation Students, Community Engagement & Volunteer Center, the Chemistry Department, the Arts & Letters Undergraduate Research Conference, Center for International Stabilization and Recovery, etc.

**Future Work Planned:**

- Leslie, the Office of Fellowships & Awards (OFA), and the committee will continue to promote Fulbright activities while keeping track of ongoing changes. Promotion of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program is concurrent with heavy emphasis on additional post-grad, international opportunities.
- Leslie will be attending the 2025 Biennial National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA) Conference in July, and will report on the insights, discussions, progress, and approaches colleagues across the national are having/making about federal-related fellowships.
- Leslie and Michelle continue to share updates about the Fulbright Program as information becomes available.