Overview:
Globalization, driven by innovation and information technology, is at the cusp of changing how higher education is perceived and how knowledge is disseminated. The invisible hands of market forces are redefining the relationship between the learner and the learning centers. We are witnessing the unprecedented pace in which global forces are shaping the demand and supply of workforce across the continents. It is imperative for Institutions of higher learning to leverage their existing resources in an effective and nimble way to provide opportunities for their students to prepare for our new global knowledge economy and become responsible global citizens.

Ferris State University’s academic leaders have clearly demonstrated their commitment to educating our students for this new globalizing economy. The new FSU General Education Philosophy statement states: “Ferris State University prepares its students by challenging them to be successful in a diverse and globalized world”. The Provost’s office has redoubled its International efforts by providing additional resources and support personnel for the Office of International Education (OIE). The administrative structure of the Extended and International Operations (EIO) allows FSU to capitalize on the exploding global opportunities.

EIO’s global outreach can be successful if the academic structure strongly supports these new initiatives and opportunities. To strengthen the current international academic initiatives and further the goals of globalizing the campus and curriculum, it is essential to create an agile, responsive and innovative entity within the current Institutional academic setup. The proposed Center for Global Studies and Engagement can be the delivery vehicle to achieve this.

Goals:
The goals of the Center for Global Studies and Engagement include:
- Provide a well-defined location and process for engaging FSU on global issues.
- Serve as a home for the Globalization Initiative.
- Serve as an entity that attracts Visiting Scholars to Ferris
- Provide a platform to offer multi-disciplinary International/Global courses.
- Support the development of new global curriculum
- Support innovative degree and non-degree global programs such as a Global Studies Minor.
- Provide financial support in the exploratory and development phases of new global program development.
- Enhance partnerships outside of the university in support of global curriculum.
- Provide academic support to Study Abroad programs.
- Support Experiential learning that will complement interdisciplinary team teaching led by in-country and traveling faculty.
CGSE Structure:
The CGSE will act as the academic arm of the Office of International Education (OIE). The CGSE will have two structural components.

1) An academic structure in the form of a Global Studies Advisory Group, with primary responsibility to help vet and promote new global programs. It will also act as a curriculum committee and a Study Abroad assessment committee.

2) An operational structure including a faculty/administrative coordinator and staff charged not only with the operational issues of the CGSE but in promoting Globalization Initiative and other programs.

Financial Model
The financial structure for the CGSE is two-fold. First, funding must be available to support the operational structure of the CGSE. Second, the tuition revenue from the innovative courses offered by the Center would support the finances of the CGSE. OIE will provide initial funding for the director and support staff. The revenue generated from the OIE’s Intensive English Program can be used as a startup funds for the CGSE.

Proposed Time Line
There is a great deal of momentum for the CGSE from the OIE. Many of the proposed ideas are already being implemented by the OIE. For example, OIE supports 12 Study Abroad programs. OIE is also offering two courses GLBL 390 and GLEL 390. The Globalization Initiative funding is channelized through OIE.

Appoint staff - May, 2011
Identify and select the Global Studies Advisory Group - May, 2011
Hold initial meeting and retreat - May, 2011
Develop promotional and announcement materials - July - August, 2011
Hold campus and college level meetings - September, 2011

References: