

Shaping the Future of PEN-International
Partner Discussion Guide
June 24, 2005

Welcome to RIT and to our discussion group. As we mentioned to you in our previous letter to you, you are the leaders in your respective countries. You have had four years of experience and growth already with PEN-International. You have encountered obstacles that you have overcome in different ways, and you have seen the impact of your work upon the faculty and students or others with whom you work. It is important for any organization to occasionally assemble a group of leaders to dialogue and make recommendations to the organization. You are the experts, who together, can help to formulate a vision and to map initiatives for the next five years for PEN-International.

We are here today to begin this discussion. We sent you previously a list of possible topics for consideration, repeated here for your convenience:

Possible topics of importance to consider regarding the future directions for PEN:

- Career Education and Employment
- Classroom Communication
- Counselor Competencies
- Deaf Education
- English as a Second Language
- Faculty Professional Development
- Interpreter Training and Sign Language Instruction
- Teaching Techniques and Strategies
- Use of Instructional Technologies
- Other topics (please specify)

Before we begin discussion, we want to give you all about a half hour or so to write down your thoughts (as outlined below). You do not have to write in English here. We do want to keep your thoughts, but we can have them translated here later. For now they are to help to organize the discussion today.

A: Topics for Discussion

Using the above list, or other topics that we did not include, please write down the five (5) topics that you consider the most important for PEN-International to address. In the discussions today we will try to select the 4 or 5 mentioned by the most people to discuss. Under each topic, please explain briefly why that topic is so important for PEN-International to consider in future initiatives. If there is not enough time to discuss all of your selections, we will still have some of your thoughts written here.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

B. Specific Examples of Challenges You Have Addressed

In writing down these examples, please be as detailed in your description as possible. Please use the following three questions to guide your answers below:

- What are some obstacles or challenges you encountered in each of the areas listed below, while trying to implement your PEN-International initiatives?
 - How did you address or deal with those obstacles/challenges?
 - What changes could PEN-International make to avoid or minimize those challenges in the future?
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1) Challenges related to faculty development activities.

2) Challenges related to instructional technologies activities that you have used (teaching tools, multi-media labs, etc.).

3) Challenges related to cultural exchange activities that you have had.

C. Specific Examples of Activities that have had a Positive Impact Upon Faculty Teaching or Student Performance

In writing down these examples, please be as detailed as possible. Please use the following questions to guide your writing for each of the areas listed below:

- Describe an activity that was beneficial and should be continued in future PEN initiatives.
 - Describe the effect of this activity upon faculty or students, that is, changes that have occurred (for example, things like a change in programs, or in faculty teaching and learning, test scores, graduation rates, employment rate changes, and so on).
 - Can you think of additional or new activities or areas of focus for PEN-International that might enable the partner institutions to further improve the educational and employment opportunities for students who are deaf?
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1) An activity related to faculty development.

2) An activity related to instructional activities that you have used.

3) An activity related to cultural exchange activities that you have been involved in.

D. Overall Advice

What general advice would you give to the newer PEN-International partner institutions in your countries? What knowledge or suggestions could you give from your experience to help them to be more successful?