Dr. Brustein comes to Ohio State from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he was the director of international programs and studies. As a scholar, Dr. Brustein publishes in the fields of sociology, political science, and history. Prior to his service at Illinois, he was an international officer and a member of the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh and, earlier, at Minnesota and Utah.

During my tenure with the Office of International Affairs over the last two and a half years, we have been laying the groundwork in preparation for the many international initiatives that will set the stage for our future. We have strengthened our formal relationships with institutions around the globe by entering into agreements that have a strategic purpose aligned with specific goals and outcomes. We have reached out to the academic units to connect them to the international process. A Study Abroad Advisory Committee has been formed to bring together individuals from across campus to analyze current study abroad programs and discuss new approaches to ensure the academic quality of current and future study abroad programs. We have promoted many different types of international activities taking place at Ohio State with the understanding that shared knowledge brings the university together as one.

I anticipate that over the next six months there will be much discussion about the possibility of international gateways - through which Ohio State could have a presence in several other countries - internationalizing the curriculum, increasing the number of our students studying in another country and encouraging faculty to become even more engaged in international activities.

Based on the long-standing international engagement of our faculty, Ohio State is fortunate to be rising to the next level with the strong, dynamic and experienced leadership of Dr. Brustein. As we embark on this exciting journey, I personally look forward, as I know we all do, to helping further the international mission of the university.