PART I: MISSION, GOALS AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. MISSION AND AREAS OF FOCUS

The mission of the Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies (TCS) is to enhance the University’s teaching, research, and outreach activities involving both area studies and transnational, thematic areas of concentration, such as migration, crime, environmental, and global economic issues. TCS facilitates constructive interaction between and among interdisciplinary regional programs and thematic programs, and seeks to forge new teaching and research alliances on areas or subjects relevant to the University’s core competencies and international mission. To accomplish its mission, TCS actively seeks external funding, both from public and private sources.

The Center encompasses regional programs in Asian Studies, European Studies, Middle East Studies, and cooperates with the African-New World Studies program. TCS interfaces with the University’s Latin America and Caribbean Center (LACC) to promote research across regional lines. Noteworthy in this respect is the Asian Globalization and Latin America Program funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Transnational and Comparative Studies (TCS) advocates for traditional area studies programs (e.g., European Studies, Asian Studies, and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies), while at the same time facilitating inter-disciplinary research, teaching, and outreach activities, such as programs in transnational crime, international migration, and electoral geography of transitional regimes. Brokering faculty research and teaching alliances on such topics creates synergies beyond disciplinary/departmental borders that would be difficult to establish and sustain otherwise. These interdisciplinary alliances in turn undertake to seek external funding opportunities.

B. ORGANIZATIONAL, EXTERNAL TRENDS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES. TCS reports to the Provost. TCS has direct purview over the Institute of Asian Studies, the European Studies Program, the Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Program, and cooperates with the African-New World Studies Program. TCS has a Faculty Steering Committee and an external Board of Advisors.

2. ADVISORY BOARDS. The Faculty Steering Committee members are: Dr. Mira Wilkins (Economics), Dr. Elizabeth Prugl (International Relations), Dr. Mohammed Faroukh (Education), Dr. John F. Stack, Jr. (Public Policy and Citizenship Studies), Dr. Anthony P. Maingot (Sociology), Dr. A. Douglas Kincaid (LACC), Dr. William Walker (History), Dr. Ana Roca (Modern Languages), Mr. Salvador Miranda (Library), Dr. Nathan Katz (Religious Studies), Dr. Guillermo Grenier
(Labor Center. The Faculty Steering Committee advises TCS on curriculum matters involving area studies certificates and on directions for research undertakings

The external Board of Advisors includes members from the Southeast Florida business, government, and professional communities. They are: Mr. Owen Freed (Stearns, Weaver, and Miller, P.A.), Hon. Hideaki Asahi (Consul General of Japan), Mr. Pedro Freyre (Amstar Insurance), Dr. Edward Glab, Exxon-Mobil Inter-America), Ms. Deborah Jacobson (SBJ, Inc.), Dr. Farrokh Jhabvala (Jorden, Burt, Boros, Cicchetti, Berenson and Johnson, P.A.), Ms. Natalia V. Poliakova (Becker and Poliakoff, P.A.), Mr. Leonard Rosenberg (Sandler, Travis, and Rosenberg, P.A.), Ms. Maria M. Visser (Euro Am Realty), and Mr. Juan Yanes (Management and Business Solutions). The Board of Advisors provides guidance to TCS primarily on outreach matters and assists in fundraising.

3. EXTERNAL TRENDS. Federal funding for traditional area studies programs remains more or less constant, but funding for international studies national resource centers was reduced significantly in the last round of Title VI competition. It is to be anticipated that this lesser funding level will carry through the next competition. Global issues gaining importance, such as transnational crime, international migration, ethnic conflict, political instability, and the like, will no doubt drive funding priorities going forward. We will adjust to these externalities by creating research and teaching alliances targeted at globalization trends.

4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND AREAS OF EMPHASIS. TCS’s vision is to become a nationally-recognized center of international studies within the next five years. Included in that vision are robust regional programs in European Studies, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, African Studies (in cooperation with the African-New World Studies Program), and Asian Studies, all with undergraduate certificates. TCS also envisions housing several global issues initiatives, externally funded, including programs on transnational crime, international migration, and ethnic conflict. TCS will offer its own undergraduate certificate based upon courses on these and other subjects. In realizing this vision, TCS addresses the International theme directly, and the Urban theme indirectly through its planned Global Cityscapes program. TCS expects that its teaching, research, and outreach activities will engage the other three themes (Environmental, Health, and Information) in specific initiatives brought forward by faculty or as opportunities present themselves.

C. ANNUAL AND LONG RANGE GOALS

Long Range Goal 1: Increase Externally-Funded Research on Transnational Themes and Area Studies Programs (Addresses University Goal II, III, IV, V, VI)
Measurable Outcome: Dollar amount
Use of Results for Program Improvement: Developed expertise in project and grants proposal writing
2000-01 Objective: Double the dollar amount of proposals for external funding

Long Range Goal 2: Establish Teaching and Research Alliances with Other Centers and Colleges (Addresses University Goal I, II, III, IV, VI)

Measurable Outcome: Cooperative Programs Established
Use of Results for Program Improvement: Learned importance of shared information on new initiatives. Established working relationships at program coordinator level.
2000-01 Objective: Expand efforts with College of Education and LACC, CAJ, and LRC. Build ties with Wolfsonian programs.

Long Range Goal 3: Develop area studies programs (Addresses University Goal I, II, IV)


*Note: Institute of Asian Studies report is submitted separately to the provost.

Long Range Goal 4: Expand Outreach Activities (Addresses University Goal III)
2000-01 Objective: Expand the Board from nine to 15 members. Secure funding from Board members for lecture series.