

IPAC Study Abroad Sub-Committee
March 28, 2008

In attendance: Wendy Williamson, Dr. Michael Cornebise, Dr. Regina Nganga, Dr. Stephen Canfield, Dr. Dagni Bredeson, Pam Collins, Susan Bulla

It was decided that Dr. Canfield will present the recommendations of the sub-committee to IPAC on Friday, April 4 unless he is unable to do so due to a previous obligation. If Dr. Canfield cannot attend, Dr. Bredeson will present the recommendations.

Dr. Tesa Leonce from the Department of Economics presented her proposal for a study abroad program called, "Caring for the Caribbean." Dr. Leonce explained that the program would have an emphasis on coral reefs, and of promoting awareness of anthropogenic stress upon the reefs. The program is 4 weeks long, and will earn students 3.0 semester hours. It takes place primarily at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, and the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, in order to experience the cultures of different islands of the West Indies. Dr. Leonce will be traveling to the locations in June to arrange the schedule, investigate available activities, and finalize accommodations.

The program was commended for its multi-disciplinary aspects as well as its affordability, and for the support of the department chair.

Suggestions:

- Adjust budget to include local transportation and cell phone
- Give more details about activities and evaluations
- Provide orientation to Caribbean culture earlier in the program
- Attempt to arrange course substitutions
- Consider taking another faculty member for extra support and safety, as well as to encourage continuity of the program. This faculty member may be funded by the department to keep costs down for students.
- Pad the budget a bit to allow for a monetary buffer
- Plan for 2 students to a room and 1 to a bed
- Once the program is approved, promote it through the departmental website, advisors, and colleague's classes as well as her own classes.

Dr. Radu Semeniac from the Chemistry Department presented his proposal for a study abroad program to Romania. The program would be 4 weeks long and earn students 4 semester hours. The course will be an intensive course in Organic Chemistry and will include a lab. The course will be taught in English by professors from the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The course content will be identical to a course taught on campus, but the teaching philosophies and the application of the disciplines will be different. Students will be staying in residence halls while the Romanian university is still in session, allowing for intercultural encounters. Field trips will be provided on weekends to local attractions, using the university bus. Dr. Semeniac will finalize details regarding accommodations, field trips, and costs when he travels to Romania in April 2008.

The program was commended for being the first chemistry study abroad program at EIU, and for the potential for continuity since teaching is not required and another faculty member is going as an “observer.”

Suggestions:

- Add the weekend field trips to the budget
- Use this program as an opportunity to advocate for EIU and the recruitment of students
- Check into semester-long study abroad programs
- Promote this program in related disciplines that require Organic Chemistry
- See the residence hall here in order to understand what amenities students will expect
- Once the program is approved, promote it through the departmental website, advisors, and colleagues classes as well as his own classes.
- Clarify teaching responsibilities and salary for faculty members.

Dr. William Higelmire, department chair of Recreation Administration, presented a proposal for a study abroad program to Ireland on behalf of Dr. Peggy Holmes-Layman. The program will take place in and around 4 cities in southern Ireland. The program is 4 weeks long and will earn students 3 semester hours. At times, students will be housed in youth hostels, affording opportunities for cultural interchange with travelers from other countries. The program will focus on recreation/tourism services and leisure behavior.

The program was commended for being one of the first from the Recreational Administration Department, and for having the support of the chair.

Suggestions:

- Add a second faculty member for sustainability and safety
- Adjust budget to add cell phone
- Advise students as to the conditions and expectation of youth hostels
- Look into course substitutions for a senior seminar in order to recruit more students

Dr. Chris Mitchell from the Theatre Arts Department was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. His study abroad program proposal entitled, “Italian Theatre from the Ancients to the Renaissance,” will take place in several locations in Italy over a 15-day period. Students completing the program will earn 3 semester hours, and will study the history of theatre.

The program was commended for having departmental support. Concern was expressed because EIU already has more than one program in Italy, and because the Theatre Arts Ireland program has not had enough students to proceed the last 2 times it was offered. There is apprehension that not enough students will register for the program, especially on a continual basis.

Suggestions:

- Adjust the budget, as it seems very low for the activities planned
- Make specific plans to attend a theatre performance while in Italy
- Expand the course to count as an elective in English, Foreign Languages, or a Senior Seminar

Dr. Marilyn Lisowski from the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary Education, & Middle-Level Education was not required to attend the meeting to present her previously offered program of "Science & Schooling." The program is the same as last year's program. The only suggestion for this program is to adjust the budget for a cell phone, and increase the meal allowance.

Dr. Betty Smith from the Department of Geology/Geography was not required to attend the meeting in order to present her proposal for a continuing program to Ecuador.

Suggestions:

- Provide the program in alternating years due to difficulties in getting enough students
- Reduce the number of activities to reduce the costs

Dr. Teresa Britton from the Philosophy Department did not attend the meeting, but will be providing her program entitled, "Italy: The Good Life." Changes to this program include decreased travel and decreased costs. Students completing this program will earn 6 semester hours. Changes also include a base in Rome: students will visit Genoa for 3 days and will be based at IES facilities in Rome for the remaining 3 weeks.

Ms. Judy Barford and Mr. Dan Carter from the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary Education, & Middle-Level Education will again present their program, "Toronto for Teachers." The program is very similar to that presented before. The Secondary Education Department is working with them this year. The number of enrolled students has doubled this year, perhaps because of the involvement of Secondary Education. Four faculty members will be attending, 2 from Secondary Education and 2 from Elementary Education.

Dr. Michael Loudon from the Department of African-American Studies did not attend the meeting. The program is the same program that was provided by Dr. Dagni Bredeson in the past, with the exception of the use of a different text and a visit to the AIDS Legal Network. Dr. Loudon is a good "fit" for this program in many ways.

Miscellaneous Business:

- Wendy will change the budget form to reflect the change from International Student Identification Card to the new insurance company of HTH Worldwide Insurance Services.
- The deadline to register for study abroad programs is in the first week of December. It may be extended, if necessary, to February 15 or March 1, but no later.
- Tuition-Recovery Model (TRM) pooling worked well, and saved nearly all of the programs. The School of Continuing Education is pleased that through the TRM pooling, their goal of most of the programs running has been achieved. However, this requires an extraordinary amount of work and constant monitoring since program costs and budgets change continually.
- In 2007, 169 students went abroad with study abroad programs. In 2008, 186 students are going.

- All new program proposals must be submitted in March. Returning program proposal may also submit in March, but can be submitted by August 15 if no major changes to the program are expected.
- A discussion occurred regarding compensation to non-teaching faculty in faculty-led study abroad programs. Discussion included the following points:
 - Compensation should not be the same as that paid to teaching faculty, as teachers have so much more work to complete.
 - Compensation should not be based on credit units since the faculty are not teaching.
 - If any teaching is provided, it should be explicitly stated and compensated, but assessment and grading may be problematic.
 - The amount of work performed by non-teaching faculty varies greatly. For example, Spring Break in Ecuador is completely organized by the Office of Study Abroad and a professor just goes along to chaperon. While students are in classes, he is free to explore, etc.
 - We are currently paying non-teaching faculty expenses and also a per diem of \$32.00 per day.