

MINUTES FOR STUDY ABROAD MEETING

Friday, November 3, 2017

Location: Doyle Library 4243
Video Conferenced to Call 632

Present:

Dr. Modhurima (Rima) DasGupta, Instructor, Behavioral Sciences Department
Dr. Masanori Iimura, Instructor Chemistry Department
Dr. Katy Jamshidi, Instructor, Biological Sciences
Ms. Stephanie Jarrett, Manager, HR/Training & Compliance, Human Resources
Mr. Kerry Loewen, Dean of Arts and Humanities and Committee Chair
Ms. Michelle Hughes Markovics, Instructor Behavioral Sciences Department and Committee Co-Chair
Ms. Mai Nazif, Instructor, World Languages Department (on Petaluma Campus)
Ms. Anita Rich, Administrative Assistant, Arts and Humanities
Dr. Kent Wisniewski, Instructor, Behavioral Sciences Department

Minutes of September 8, 2017 were approved

Updates:

Consortium—On October 30, 2017, Mr. Kerry Loewen, Dean of Arts and Humanities, attended an AIFS Consortium Meeting where they compiled an article of operations. He provided this document to all committee members and asked that they examine it before the next Study Abroad Meeting. The article of operation will then need to be approved by the CIOs. Most of the changes involved the removal of associate memberships which had been neglected for the past ten years.

The subject of an additional administrative fee was broached at the consortium meeting of August 12, 2017. This suggestion was rejected at the recent consortium meeting of October 30, 2017.

Departure Meetings

- Spring 2018—Skyline College
- Fall 2018—Sacramento City College
- Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) will host the Spring 2019 departure meeting. Ms. Stephanie Jarrett, Manager, Training and Compliance, Human Resources will do Title IX training for all students and participating faculty

Barcelona—Three SRJC students shared rooming with a student from another college who died suddenly of natural causes. Mr. Loewen emailed the students offering them succor and encouraging them not to discuss this incident on social media until parents or guardians of the deceased were notified. Ms Jarrett was also helpful in this tragedy.

With the recent political unrest due to the referendum in Barcelona, AIFS is prepared to evacuate students if necessary.

Despite recent wild fires in the county, Loewen says that enrollments for next semester are strong.

London—One course offering was not UC transferable. Dr. Kent Wisniewski, former Chair of the Study Abroad Committee and Instructor, Behavioral Sciences Department; remembered there were several reasons that led to this choice:

- Sparse amount of applicants
- Attempt to bring new faculty into the program instead of having the same faces
- Perception that Study Abroad is limited to a small amount of disciplines

Dr. Wisniewski assured that Mary Kay Rudolph, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, was on board with the push to incorporate other disciplines including Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. The committee was encouraged to experiment with classes that weren't Intersegmental G.E. Transfer Curriculum (IGTEC) compliant. Business courses and London seemed a likely pair. Wisniewski shared that the goal was about expanding horizons.

Title IX Training—Jarrett, “Depending on which institution is hosting the pre-departure training” SRJC will be facilitating a group Title IX training and a local supplemental campus training so students will understand SRJC policies and know contacts. It will be an additional training for both faculty and students. Loewen said this is a requirement of all faculty who participate in Study Abroad. Because of All Faculty Association (AFA) constraints, this can't be done on the main campus. This particular training is an exception because it is a special situation. Ms. Michelle Hughes Markovics, Instructor Behavioral Sciences Department and Committee Co-Chair, of course felt that faculty should be compensated for time expended. Loewen countered that this is “not part of the agreement.” He suggested that AFA could negotiate. It is a requirement for anyone who is approved to go abroad. Jarrett suggested that training can be part of the departure orientation, so no extra time will be expended. Loewen felt considering the current climate that faculty would welcome more training to ensure personal liability and protection, without compensation, but he understood her concerns. Ms Hughes-Markovics asked if the two-hour required online training was adequate. Jarrett answered this is a supplemental training that specifically addresses issues that happen abroad.

Jarrett informed the committee that as predicted last meeting, about a month and a half ago, all Title IX regulations were rescinded. However, this doesn't affect SRJC policies.

Faculty Selection for Academic Year 2019-2020

The big question concerns that the destination for Fall 2019 is still unknown. Loewen will contact the consortium about this. Wisniewski suggested that the deadline be extended and applications be screened via email after December meeting.

Last time, applications submitted were sparse. Ms Mai Nazif, Instructor World Languages Department (on Petaluma Campus), was curious as to this lack of participation. Wisniewski feels there are several reasons for the shortage of applications:

- Eliminating adjunct participation because of load issues
- Disciplines compatible with the Study Abroad environment are limited
- Each discipline must offer three courses
- Tenure-faculty are either unaware of the program or are not permitted to apply
- Small application pool
- Requires two years of planning

Study Abroad Rotation

Florence Instructor—Spring 2018
London Instructor —Fall 2018
Florence—Spring 2019
Fall 2019—???

At this time, Loewen solicited suggestions on possible destinations. They were:

Barcelona
Grenada
Mexico
Costa Rica
Prague
Latin America countries
Berlin

Loewen said that Barcelona has become a more popular destination (notwithstanding the current political climate) of choice because it is not as expensive as some of the European locations.

Other more exotic locations have been suggested by faculty but, “keep in mind that this is the first trip abroad for most students and although it is certainly a European-centric thing right now, AIFS is not certain that we can get the enrollments we need for some of these other locations.” More exotic locations should be piloted during the summer semester. Loewen approved of sponsoring a formal poll soliciting Study Abroad destination suggestions.

Also, Loewen was curious if the demographic who may be interested in travelling to Latin America could afford it? Are there more scholarships available for this population?

Program Promotion and Support

Day Under the Oaks (DUO)—Need volunteers for a two-hour period

Professional Development Activity (PDA) Day—Dr. Modhurima (Rima) DasGupta, Instructor, Behavioral Sciences Department submitted the Study Abroad PDA proposal. Dates were removed for now and content will be tweaked before January. Jarrett has already approved it. Dr. DasGupta, who attended one of past Study Abroad PDA sessions, enjoyed the “Trivial Pursuit”© format. Her criticisms were: not enough time at the end and participants who had not yet travelled seemed embarrassed. Perhaps the question should be changed to desired travel locales to avoid this discomfort in the future.

World Languages Day was cancelled.

Jarrett recommended setting up the Study Abroad booth next semester at the well-attended *One Love Diversity Festival*.

Student Committee Members

Hughes Markovics has a student who participated in her Italy Study Abroad Program who is interested in serving as a student representative. Patty Warne, Program Assistant Study Abroad, will send an email to past participants in hopes of recruiting another student representative.

Jarrett mentioned that in an effort to profile more Study Abroad activities, the website can include photo releases within the application for students. She will provide the list of instructors who would like to send pictures.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Nazif wanted to know will there be a Summer 2019 Study Abroad offering(s). Loewen said it all depends on enrollments for the Spring 2018.

Ms. Jeanette BenFarhat, Florence 2017 Study Abroad Instructor of Record, will make an appearance at the December meeting.

Terri Frongia, Instructor of Record in Barcelona Fall 2017, sent an email to inform the committee that she discovered her Tuesday/Thursday class was changed to Monday/Wednesday. This change had occurred in July 2017. She wasn't informed until days before her class started in September 2017. This was a problem because of limited museum access on Mondays and massive changes needed to the website and syllabi. Ms. Frongia felt that her situation was not handled with due diligence. Loewen said that he would investigate.

With the recent wildfires that have devastated some of the county, Loewen was wondering what can we do to help returning students to “land softly.” Jarrett suggested sending a direct email to students offering support, connecting them to student psych services, and working with student affairs to see if they lost possessions or a residence. Basically—ask them what they need.

Meeting ended at 9:45 am