

**MINUTES FOR STUDY ABROAD
MEETING**

March 11, 2016—8:30 am

**Location: Doyle Library 4243
Video Conferenced to Call 632**

Present (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Terri Frongia, Instructor Modern and Classical Languages Department (Petaluma Campus)
Dr. Masanori Imura, Instructor Chemistry Department
Michelle Hughes Markovics, Instructor Behavioral Sciences Department
Emmanuel Monter, Student Committee Member and Director of Clubs, Petaluma Campus
Anita Rich, Administrative Assistant, Arts and Humanities
Vayta Smith, Director, Admissions and Records
Dr. Anna Szabados, Dean of Arts and Humanities and Committee Chair
Dr. Kent Wisniewski, Instructor Behavioral Sciences Department and Committee Co-Chair

Absent:

Susanna Ackerman, Instructor Modern and Classical Languages Department
Nicole Slovak, Instructor Behavioral Sciences Department

Special Guest:

Michael Traina, Instructor Communication Studies Department

Welcome and Introductions

The Study Abroad Committee welcomed new student committee member—Emmanuel Monter, Director of Clubs, Petaluma Campus

Minutes of December 11, 2015 approved.

Michel Traina's Presentation

Michael Traina, Communication Studies Department Instructor, addressed the committee in regards to his experience travelling abroad to Paris in Fall 2014. In the past, he has twice participated in Study Abroad through the Southern California Consortium, while instructing at Antelope Valley College, Los Angeles County. His main goal is to have a conversation with the committee as to the differences in the functioning of these two consortiums.

Mr. Traina was also curious if a Paris trip was slated to appear in the destination rotation anytime soon. He was told by Kent Wisniewski, Behavioral Sciences Instructor and co-chair of the Study Abroad committee “no” and that this was decided by the consortium.

In comparing this trip to previous Study Abroad stints in London, Mr. Traina felt that it was pretty obvious that London is the “flagship” program. In London, student integration and access to various facilities—libraries, student unions, gyms, and other student services were markedly different than Paris. By contrast, in Paris, there seemed to be no control even over basics like classroom spaces. A couple of times, at the last minute, Paris AIFS asked if he could conduct classroom meetings from his residential flat. As a result of this kind of predicament, instructors were sometimes forced to cancel classes.

It was also difficult to plan for field trips. The Paris AIFS office pleaded ignorance about information that was sent six months in advance. Sometimes it took more than a month for passes, tickets, or arrangements to be coordinated. It is not Traina's intent to criticize Paris or the French people, but just shed light on the difference between the London and Paris AIFS Study Abroad infrastructures.

But mostly he wanted to contrast the way Southern and Northern California consortiums are organized. For one, the Southern consortium is much bigger. Ten schools are members of that consortium. One school, Citrus College, is the anchor and provides the lead faculty. That faculty is the only one who is the instructor of record for the Life and Culture course. This ensures maximum enrollment for this

course and eliminates the under-enrolled, redundant Life and Culture courses taught in the Northern Californian consortium.

In the Southern California Consortium, the ten schools competed for the three faculty slots remaining. Mr. Traina was not privy to that selection process, so he doesn't know the criteria. He does know that it wasn't based on recruitment numbers, thus removing that kind of pressure from instructors.

He favors the Southern California operation since his being the lead recruiter of students (27) in Fall 2014, did not assure an ideal situation for him. In fact, before the recruitment period had ceased, one of his classes was eliminated forcing him to teach under load. This was especially embittering since he observed faculty from other colleges, who had recruited a quarter of his numbers, go on to teach full loads.

An anchor college, more campuses participating, removing the recruitment criteria, and assuring maximum enrollments in one Life and Culture class are some of the reasons that he feels that the Southern Cal consortium offers a better model.

Mr. Traina left the meeting at 9 am.

1. Updates

- a. Consortium meeting (faculty selection 2017-2018) went well
- b. Florence, current trip, Sandra Hollimon, Instructor of Record, things are going well
- c. Summer 2016 programs (Oxford, Costa Rica, Budapest).
 - Oxford—28 SRJC students enrolled
 - Costa Rica—(15 SRJC students enrolled)
 - Budapest trip is postponed because all airlines want guaranteed numbers for any group travel “100 days in advance.”
 - London—Fall 2016--(19 SRJC students enrolled)
- e. Board of Trustees presentation on March 8, 2016 by Dr. Anna Szabados and Kent Wisniewski went well.

2. Faculty selection for Summer 2017 programs

- a. Application screening (applications due March 30, 2016)
- c. Interviews scheduled on April 8 from 8 am to noon

3. Program Promotion and Support

Day Under the Oaks and DUO Staffing-- (May 1, 2016--10 am to 4 pm)--Kent Wisniewski, Dr. Masanori Iimura, and Michelle Hughes-Markovics volunteered to set up the tent and staff. Dr. Anna Szabados and Emmanuell Monter has volunteered to staff the Study Abroad tent until 2 pm. Wisniewski will be seeking volunteers for the afternoon shift.

Meeting ended at 9:40 am.