

Meeting Minutes
Study Abroad Committee
Friday, May 12, 2023
9:00 am – 10:00 am

Present: Bitá Bookman, Rima DasGupta, Margaret Grayson (faculty co-chair), Kerry Loewen (co-chair), Miguel Ramon, Kimberley Starke, Kent Wisniewski, Anita Rich
 Student: Leticia Camarena

Visitors: Robert Ethington, Lenny Wagner

Topic	Notes	Presenter
Florence report	<p>Kerry Loewen, Robert Ethington and Lenny Wagner report on March 2023 site visit to Florence</p> <p>Lenny Wager: went really smoothly. Easy to get questions answered. “Nothing but positive things to say”.</p> <p>Robert Ethington: there for 8 days. My first time to Europe. “We got to slow down”; had three 4-hour dinners – food, wine and company was a blast. Have some pics. Loved meeting w/students and hearing about their experience, seeing their quarters, hearing about what they’re learning.</p> <p>Kerry showed us photos: one thing to improve on – ask more questions about cooking preferences to match students more effectively – bigger kitchens for students who like to cook.</p> <p>Robert showed us shots he took, including Lenny’s classroom.</p> <p>Bitá: how was the class enrollment? Were students evenly distributed? Lenny’s classes average enrollment was about 25. Eric’s – Art History – was really popular. Lenny “theatre is big, it was really well attended.”</p> <p>Robert: partly why I went was b/c we have had cases each time. Seeing the site/context was really helpful and to understand who the players are, the layout of the rooms.</p>	Kerry/Robert E. and Lenny Wagner

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Kerry: Robert and Kim have been my partners all along. This semester very few problems.

Rima: were there any student conduct problems. And what other courses were offered? Economics, Sociology and Kinesiology. There were some minor student conduct issues – roommates not getting along, AIFS shuffled the students around to be with more compatible roommates. Students bonded really well as a group. Was a great group. A few students got ill.

Kim: Lenny, do you think it was just luck that the group was so great? Kerry answered that part of it is the person who recruits and Lenny set expectations clearly.

Kerry: requests about roommate situations, i.e. gender-neutral pairs, couples who end up breaking up while on study abroad. Robert said we would take those on case by case. Lenny: talking with some of the students said would have liked opportunity to mix prior to the trip to see who would be best roommate prior to trip. Kerry: a young gay male said he was uncomfortable rooming with a straight male – we run into complicated issues. Kim: maybe part of the solution is a mixer prior to trip and they could find each other. Margaret: maybe virtual meetings prior to trip might be more manageable.

Bit: what did they do w/COVID cases?
Lenny: very similar to USA protocols – quarantine, then come back when tested negative. Health care over there is accessible.

Kim: Lenny, if there is one thing you could change what would it be? My own lack of

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	<p>knowledge – first two Airbnb’s were not great. Some of the trips we went on w/the students, had I been more savvy, I might have done that differently, but in terms of the students, it was awesome.</p> <p>Florence is really popular and was crowded.</p>	
<p>Future Trips</p>	<p>Summer ’23 – no trip scheduled Fall ’23 – Barcelona (Panella) Spring ’24 – Florence (Kirsten Swinstrom) Summer ’24 – Ireland (Jessica Layton/Tony Ruiz) Fall ’24 – London (Anne Belden) Spring ’25 – Florence (recruit fall ‘23) Summer ’25 –Peru or Argentina (Laura Larque/Noelina Gomez) Fall ’25 – Barcelona (Danielle King) Spring ’26 Florence (Roy Gattinella)</p> <p>Kim: Is it typical for two people to go? Kerry, in the summer, yes; allows to spread out of the class workload.</p> <p>Bitá: if we allow Laura to go when she’s Associate faculty, it’s a precedent. Discussion: we talked about making it clear that it’s an exception because Laura’s trip when she was full-time was cancelled due to no fault of her own.</p> <p>Miguel: didn’t we have plans to open up Barcelona for 2025?</p> <p>Leticia: what did students learn in Florence? What is support like? Kim talked about a call-in number for therapy services.</p> <p>Bitá: are there plans to extend AIFS programs to eastern hemisphere? Asia, Middle East, Africa. Kerry: would have to start in summer and see if there’s a demand. Kent: suggested doing a survey to gauge student interest. Kerry encouraged Bitá to submit application</p>	<p>Kerry</p>

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	<p>for a place she'd like to go to. Bitia mentioned Japan. And Rima mentioned Tokyo.</p> <p>Bitia: would AIFS help if we picked another country. Kerry said he would ask them.</p>	
Approval of minutes	Approved.	

Committee Function: Advise the District in matters regarding curriculum, location and faculty selection for semester-length and summer study abroad programs. Lead faculty and student recruitment efforts. Plan and implement a long-range vision for study abroad opportunities for SRJC students, faculty and community.