

Santa Rosa Junior College
Study Abroad Committee
Draft Minutes
September 11, 2020

Attending: Kerry Loewen, Co-Chair, Ethan Wilde, Faculty Co-Chair, Kent Wisniewski, Rima Dasgupta, Kirsten Swinstrom, Anita Rich

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Election of Faculty Co-Chair – Ethan self-nominated and was elected by acclamation
3. Covid-19 update & upcoming programs. Kerry presented a timeline of events faced by study abroad regarding Covid-19:

February 27, 2020 (late Friday afternoon) – State Department and CDC raise Italy to Level 3 warning. Our contracts require that study abroad programs be cancelled if warning level reaches Level 3. Kerry is in discussions with our partner American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS) over weekend.

March 2, 2020 (Monday morning) – President’s Cabinet decides to cancel the Florence program and transition all classes to remote delivery. The Northern California Study Abroad Coalition (NCSAC) and AIFS decides to evacuate students and faculty within the next 10 days. Students and faculty are allowed to remain in Italy if they sign a waiver. At first approximately 40% of students indicated they would stay, but very quickly all students and faculty made the decision to evacuate. (Note: All students and faculty were required to self-quarantine for two weeks on arrival in the US and none of our students or faculty contracted the virus in Italy).

March 24, 2020 – Ireland summer 2020 is cancelled and rescheduled for summer 2021

April 30, 2020 – Anne Belden asks to be reassigned from Florence SP 2021 to a future trip over concerns that a future cancellation will negatively impact her department.

May 8, 2020 – SA committee interviews potential future study abroad faculty and forwards the names of finalists Eric Thompson and Lenny Wagner to the NCSAC Directors for consideration for future placement. In a normal year, these interviews would have resulted in assignments for FA 21 and SP 22.

May 14, 2020 – Jeanette Ben Farhat is offered and accepts Florence SP 2021 (replacing Anne B.)

May 17, 2020 – NCSAC makes decision to cancel London FA 2020 with Anne Marie Insull

Anne Marie Insull is offered and accepts Florence SP 2022

Anne Belden is offered and accepts London FA 2021 (her original first choice)
Eric Thompson is offered and accepts Barcelona FA 2022
Lenny Wagner is offered and accepts Florence SP 2023

July 27, 2020 – NCSAC makes decision to cancel Florence SP 2021 with Jeanette Ben Farhat

NCSAC proposes a virtual Life & Culture class with an optional remote international internship, Jeanette agrees to be the instructor of record if program goes forward.

September 4, 2020 – NCSAC decides that AIFS proposal for virtual Life & Culture would be too costly. Jeanette Ben Farhat is notified and is offered FA 2023 or SP 2024. SRJC is still considering offering our students international internships through San Mateo district

Kerry asked for committee feedback about his decision-making process. The committee discussed and concurred that the process was fair. They asked that Jeanette be the back-up for any future programs before FA 2023. The committee also suggested that the application be clarified to indicate that if a faculty member's trip is cancelled for reasons other than low enrollment that they would be placed at the back of the queue and would not bump another faculty member's assignment.

The committee asked to have VPAA Dr. Jane Saldaña-Talley visit a future meeting to discuss potential areas of concern regarding a future program.

4. The function of the study abroad committee was briefly discussed
<https://bussharepnt2013.santarosa.edu/committees/studyabroad/>

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.

<https://study-abroad.santarosa.edu/>

5. Recruiting this year will likely be only for Summer 2022 faculty led program. Recruiting for semester-length programs is generally a year-and-a-half in advance, but cancellations have resulted in a back log of approved faculty.
6. Meeting schedule for this year was discussed. The committee will meet as needed.
7. Meeting was adjourned.