

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS
Meeting notes February 24, 2009

In attendance: Erica Bastress-Dukehart (Chair), Sylvia Franke, Leslie Mechem, Adrienne Zuerner, Cori Filson, and Tina Breakell. Beau Breslin joined for Scribner Seminar discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Erica will follow up with an email to Beau regarding the Scribner Seminar international component discussion. Beau will then bring the discussion to Muriel Poston as well as Paty Rubio. The conversation is outlined below.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Scribner Seminar with an international component discussion: Beau Breslin from the office of the First-Year experience came to discuss an idea that faculty had approached him with regarding offering a standing Scribner Seminar with an international travel component. The committee agreed that it would be problematic to offer a consistent, standing course, as it conflicts with the practice we have followed of not reserving one of the short-term opportunities for a single course/department. Therefore, ACOP could not privilege this type of experience over other short-term program proposals.

Second, ACOP discussed at length the idea of requiring the travel component for all participants in the Scribner Seminar. This would be difficult given the uncertainty of students' academic capabilities and students' ability to handle such an experience. We would have no academic background for these students, no GPA and no context to assess their ability to succeed on an international program this early in their academic career. If required, students would need to commit to the program at the time of enrolling in the Scribner Seminar. During the semester, a professor might find that certain students are simply not ready to participate (academic and social issues, maturity level, etc.). OCSE would have already assumed that all students would participate and would have committed resources to securing facilities abroad. Should a student prove to be unable or unfit to participate, the College would lose any funds already committed to the program. It could also be awkward and difficult for the professor and students who could not participate to continue in the remainder of the course. If we did not require the travel component, when would we make the choice to select certain students and not others? Also, this type of selection could cause a division in the course between those students who would and would not participate. Again, this could be awkward and difficult to manage.

Third, if the college moves to offering financial aid for only two off-campus study programs (currently under consideration), then participation in the travel component would limit students' ability to go abroad again later in the academic career. Students may not be fully aware of this fact when choosing the Scribner Seminar - even with appropriate disclaimers and warnings, we worry students would be unaware of the limitations participating would create.

Finally, the timing of the trip at the end of the term could be problematic. When registering for the course, students may envision a nice January break opportunity.

However, at the end of the semester they may decide that they need to return home to re-connect with their families and friends instead of traveling. This could result in students withdrawing at the end of the semester, which would cause serious problems for the faculty and OCSE in terms of delivering the program.

The committee proposes that FYE consider the model set forth by Jim Kennelly a few years ago. Jim developed a January travel seminar that linked to his Scribner Seminar in that it was an extension of what he taught in the fall. He did not, however, restrict participation to his FYE students, nor did he require the FYE students to participate. Instead, it was a stand-alone short-term January program that was open to all students. He then encouraged qualified students from his Scribner Seminar to participate. In this way, he was able to evaluate a student's academic progress and his/her ability to succeed in the overseas portion of the program. He also did not need to rely only on enrollments from his Scribner Seminar and was able to fill the program with a cross-section of students from several classes. Jim and the students found this to be an excellent model, one ACOP would like to encourage others to consider.

Membership: In light of the recent FEC proposal distributed to all committee chairs, ACOP discussed how many faculty members would be necessary for committee membership. It was decided that faculty representation from a range of disciplines is important but one less faculty member might suffice. ACOP decided that having a member of CEPP as chair and two additional faculty members would be sufficient for committee representation, eliminating one faculty position for ACOP.

OCSE Staffing: ACOP was updated on the current staffing shortage in OCSE.

Petition Review: The committee discussed the non-approved program petitions for the fall 2009 semester. There were sixteen applicants, they were all from the class of 2011, and all were approved with the exception of one. The applicant that was denied applied to the IES London program because of the internship component, but the petition did not have a strong enough academic argument for choosing that program over the currently approved UK programs. The argument was not academically compelling enough and ACOP felt that there were more appropriate options already available on the approved programs list.

Below is a list of approved applicants for fall 2009.

First Name	Last Name	Program Provider	Program Country	Region	Program City	University Abroad
Anthony	Bentrovato	BADA	England	United Kingdom	London	London Theater Program
Jacob	Boersma	CIEE	India	India	Hyderabad	University of Hyderabad: Arts and Sciences
Torrey	Bonington	IFSA/Butler	England	United Kingdom	London	University of the Arts: London
Elizabeth	Charpentier	IES	Germany	Europe Other	Berlin	IES Germany: Metropolitan Studies

(table cont.)

First Name	Last Name	Program Provider	Program Country	Region	Program City	University Abroad
Diana	De Sousa	IES	Germany	Europe Other	Berlin	IES Germany: Metropolitan Studies
Laura	Fralich	SIT	India	India	Various Cities	SIT: Culture and Development
Cassandra	Giraldo	SIT	Madagascar	Africa	Antananarivo	SIT Madagascar: Culture and Society
Alexis	Green	CIEE	South Africa	Africa	Stellenbosch	Stellenbosch University
Elizabeth	Roche	SIT	Switzerland	Europe Other	Geneva	SIT: Development Studies and Public Health
Adrienne	Rooney	Lexia Study Abroad	Germany	Europe Other	Berlin	Lexia in Berlin: Visual Studies
Ilanna	Saltzman	Hendrix College	Italy	Europe Other	Arezzo	Accademia dell'Arte
Tristan	Schaffer-Goldman	Hendrix College	Italy	Europe Other	Tuscany	Accademia dell'Arte
Gabriella	Sultanik	SIT	India	India	Jaipur	SIT: Arts and Culture
Naomi	Telushkin	American University	United States	North America	Washington, D.C.	The Washington Semester

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Breakell,
Program Manager, Off-Campus Study & Exchanges
February 25, 2009