

FACULTY MEETING
November 6, 2009

CEPP Motion and Rationale to expand the current Skidmore in London Program

Motion: CEPP moves that the faculty endorse the expansion of the Skidmore in London Program and formalize the current on-site support personnel structure.

Rationale:

Skidmore has had a presence in London since 1993 when we developed the Skidmore in London program. Since that time, we have partnered with a small cohort of British universities to offer students the opportunity to study in London during the spring semester. As Skidmore's curriculum and student body have changed, the needs in London have changed as well. With that in mind, the Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE) is proposing to expand the current Skidmore in London program to address the changing needs of our students by enhancing the university and course offerings for all majors at Skidmore College. We would like to add four British university partners to our portfolio, increasing student options from three universities to seven. The four new universities are as follows: Goldsmith's, University of London; Middlesex University; Queen Mary, University of London; The School of Oriental and Asian Studies, University of London. All of the schools we propose to add are currently utilized by Skidmore students through our approved programs list or through the non-approved program petition options.

There is currently a part-time, temporary on-site program coordinator who is contracted for six months each year to manage logistics in London. Historically, there was a Skidmore faculty director position in London in the spring. However, that opportunity was lost in 2006 when we ended our relationship with Regent's College. Despite OCSE's efforts to find a new faculty teaching opportunity in London, our partner universities are unable to accommodate a visiting teaching position. In addition, as the landscape of study abroad has changed and become much more complicated (health and safety issues and risks, multi-layered administrative structures in London, etc.), it has been increasingly beneficial to have a person on site who consistently knows the needs of our students. With this in mind, beginning in 2007 we have had a program coordinator oversee the program during the spring semester. At this time, we propose that Skidmore make this a permanent arrangement.