

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS (ACOP)
Annual Report 2015-2016

The membership of the Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Programs (ACOP) for the 2015-2016 academic year consisted of the following individuals:

Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Ph.D. - Chair and CEPP Representative

Cori Filson, Director, OCSE

Tina Breakell, Associate Director, OCSE (non-voting member) (Tina left the College in December 2015, after which point the committee consisted of Erica and Cori.)

AGENDA ITEMS 2015-2016:

- Administrative restructure Skidmore in London Program
- Termination of Shakespeare Programme
- Restructure of Skidmore in Paris Program
- Discussion of future of ACOP
- Review of proposals for Travel Seminars
- Review of petitions for non-approved programs

ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRUCTURE OF SKIDMORE IN LONDON (JUNIOR SPRING PROGRAM)

OCSE, in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty's office, determined that the spring Skidmore in London program needed a more substantial administrative structure. We were particularly concerned with providing appropriate response to issues of health and safety and with the need to comply with requirements regarding Title IX. In addition, we wanted to provide enhanced opportunities for students to engage with London outside the classroom in more structured ways. In January 2016, Skidmore began to partner with IFSA-Butler in London for logistical support for our students, including partnering with Skidmore's university partners; orientation programming; cultural activities and excursions; an optional culture course; and academic support when needed. Most important Skidmore now partners with IFSA-Butler for emergency response and response to emerging federal and state requirements. We continue to work directly with our seven university partners in London (University College London, King's College London, University of Westminster, SOAS, Goldsmith's University of London, Queen Mary University of London, and the University Arts London). ACOP endorsed this change and reported it to CEPP in the fall of 2015.

TERMINATION OF SHAKESPEARE PROGRAMME

OCSE proposed and ACOP supported the termination of the Shakespeare Programme in London, England, which is run in partnership with the British American Drama Academy (BADA). OCSE will maintain its affiliation with BADA through the Sarah Lawrence College London Theater Program as an approved program option. This recommendation is based on a long history of inconsistent enrollments in the program; a lack of sufficient student and faculty interest to sustain the program for the long term; and a growing need for Theater and English students to pursue a broader range of academic interests while off-campus. In the fall, BADA's Board of Directors voted to "amicably part" with Skidmore College and the Shakespeare Programme, leaving OCSE no choice but to close the program. This termination was endorsed by CEPP and brought to the faculty floor for a vote on March 4, 2016. Faculty passed the motion to terminate the program.

RESTRUCTURE OF SKIDMORE IN PARIS PROGRAM

OCSE, in consultation with the Departments of World Languages and Literatures, Management and Business, and English, and with the Office of the Dean of the Faculty/Vice President of Academic Affairs, proposed and ACOP supported the establishment of a partnership with IES Abroad in Paris to deliver the Skidmore in Paris program. The Skidmore-IES partnership shifts the mode of delivery of the Paris program – moving from a self-contained program that requires a high level of resources to a program that utilizes a combination of Skidmore’s historical academic partnerships in Paris and IES’s physical and administrative resources. This new partnership allows Skidmore to provide a high quality student and faculty experience with a significant reduction in Skidmore’s direct liability and financial commitment.

Our Skidmore in Paris program has existed for almost four decades in its current model and has been of significant educational importance to the College. However, there were several significant concerns that led us to consider a change at this time, including inconsistent student interest and enrollments, growing student dissatisfaction with the program, increased security concerns due to global events, limited course options due to the small number of participants, limited internship opportunities, increasingly complex and expensive French legal and financial compliance requirements, and the lack of access for students with physical disabilities. These concerns represented a serious threat to the long-term viability of the program; the partnership with IES addresses our concerns and provides many additional benefits to Skidmore students and faculty and to the institution. OCSE had been considering moving the program at the end of the spring 2017 semester; however, our resident director in Paris resigned his position forcing a move sooner than expected.

CEPP discussed this administrative change on April 20, 2016. The committee fully supported the move of the administration of the program to IES. CEPP also determined that the change was administrative rather than an overall redesign of the program and, therefore, did not require a faculty vote. Instead, this decision was reported to the faculty at the faculty meeting held on April 29, 2016.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE OF ACOP

Beginning in the fall and continuing into the spring, ACOP discussed the purpose and future work of the committee. The CEPP sub-committee was originally formed in 2004 to advise OCSE on the establishment of the Approved Programs structure, the selection and approval of the initial Approved Programs departmental lists, and the development of processes and policies surrounding Approved Programs. The committee’s support and guidance during the first years of the structure were invaluable to OCSE and have resulted in a solid model for program approval and evaluation. OCSE also relied on ACOP in subsequent years to provide guidance on creating and terminating Skidmore affiliations and on developing and implementing policies and procedures around off-campus programs. However, in the past five years, the composition of the committee has changed dramatically due to FEC’s call to reduce faculty involvement in committees; ACOP now consists of only one faculty member and the director of OCSE. In addition, the work and needs of OCSE have shifted significantly. With the reduction in membership and the changing needs of OCSE, ACOP believes it is a good time to consider sun setting the committee. ACOP’s chair and the Director of OCSE will discuss this further in early fall 2016.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR TRAVEL SEMINARS

ACOP and the Associate Deans of the Faculty reviewed the following proposals for Travel Seminars for 2017.

- Bali: Music, Culture and Performance (January) – Liz Macy, Music (repeat program)
- US West: Mustangs and the American West (March) – Elaine Larsen, Biology (repeat program)

- Italy: The World of Dante (May) – Barbara Garbin, Italian (new program)
- UK/Greece: The Parthenon from Pericles to the Present (May) – Michael Arnush and Leslie Mechem, Classics (repeat program)

All proposals were approved.

REVIEW OF PETITIONS FOR NON-APPROVED PROGRAMS

Fall petitions (for spring 2016):

Approved = 10 petitions

- Boston University Guatemala Archaeology Program (1 petition)
- CIEE Prague: Central European Studies (1 petition)
- IES Ecuador: Galápagos Islands Direct Enrollment (1 petition)
- IES Freiburg: Environmental Studies and Sustainability (1 petition)
- ISDSI Thailand: People, Ecology, and Development (1 petition)
- Middlebury College: School in China (1 petition)
- OTS Costa Rica: Tropical Diseases, Environmental Change and Human Health (1 petition)
- SIT Brazil: Public Health, Race, and Human Rights (2 petitions)
- SIT/IHP Climate Change: The Politics of Food, Water and Energy (1 petition)

Denied = 0

Spring petitions (for fall 2016 and academic year 2016-2017):

Approved = 10 petitions

- Accademia dell'Arte: Physical Theater Program (2 petitions)
- Arcadia London: Goldsmiths, University of London (1 petition)
- CIEE Shanghai: Business and Culture (1 petition)
- DIS Stockholm (1 petition)
- Goldsmith's, University of London; London, England (1 petition, academic year)
- IFSA-Butler London: King's College (1 petition)
- SIT/IHP Climate Change: The Politics of Food, Water, and Energy (1 petition)
- SFS Bhutan: Himalayan Environment and Society in Transition (1 petition)
- University of Westminster (1 petition)

Denied = 0

Report drafted by: Cori Filson, Director, Off-Campus Study & Exchanges
 Report reviewed and approved by: Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Chair, ACOP
 Submitted to CEPP on June 13, 2016