

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS (ACOP)
Annual Report 2016-2017

The membership of the Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Programs (ACOP) for the 2016-2017 academic year consisted of the following individuals:

Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Ph.D. - Chair and CEPP Representative
Cori Filson, Director, OCSE

Note from the Director of OCSE: CEPP should note that OCSE remains uncomfortable with the size of the membership of ACOP. At its inception, ACOP (then ACIS) consisted of 6-7 faculty members, representing different disciplinary areas of the College. The committee now consists of two people who discuss issues as they arise. As we have for several year in a row, we again urge CEPP to consider appointing at least one additional faculty member to the committee. While OCSE appreciates the need for downsizing committees due to faculty workload concerns, we cannot claim we have a committee at this point. There are years in which the role of ACOP is minimal and the work done is routine; however, during years like this one when there is significant change in our program portfolio, ACOP plays a critical role. OCSE hopes to see significant growth in programs in the coming years and would welcome faculty input as we move forward. An alternative would be to disband the committee and have OCSE work directly with CEPP on all initiatives and concerns. Given CEPP's workload, I do not believe this is a realistic solution.

AGENDA ITEMS 2016-2017:

- Approval of Skidmore in New Zealand/partnership with Frontiers Abroad
- Termination of Skidmore's Paris Fall Seminar
- Expansion of and shift in program support for Skidmore in London Program (junior program)
- Review of proposals for Travel Seminars
- Review of petitions for non-approved programs
- Addition and removal of approved programs

APPROVAL OF SKIDMORE IN NEW ZEALAND PROGRAM/PARTNERSHIP WITH FRONTIERS ABROAD

In consultation with the Departments of Geosciences, Environmental Studies & Sciences and Biology and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, OCSE proposed the establishment of a partnership with Frontiers Abroad, an educational organization in New Zealand that provides distinct science-focused academic opportunities through field curricula and study abroad opportunities for US students in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Skidmore students have participated in Frontiers Abroad programs since 2009 with great success. The new partnership formalizes our relationship and provides several distinct opportunities for collaboration. Under this new affiliation Skidmore now: envelops the existing Frontiers Abroad semester programs into the Skidmore programs portfolio for Skidmore students; serves as School of Record for non-Skidmore students; and provides for the development of future faculty and student opportunities in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Skidmore benefits from this partnership in several ways: broadening our off-campus portfolio to represent the sciences and a non-Western European location; offering focused field-work opportunities for STEM students; cultivating faculty

research and development opportunities; realizing additional revenue. ACOP and CEPP endorsed the proposal and the faculty voted to approve it in March 2017.

TERMINATION OF SKIDMORE'S PARIS FALL SEMINAR

In consultation with World Languages & Literatures and the Dean of the Faculty's Office, OCSE determined that Skidmore must terminate the Paris Fall Seminar program. The program was developed in 2004 with specific goals that are now obsolete or have proven to be unattainable. Specifically, the program was meant to capitalize on the Skidmore in Paris infrastructure, which is no longer an issue as we now use IES facilities and personnel in Paris; to offer students with little or no French the opportunity to study in Paris, but we now have a full English language track in Paris; to create a pipeline of students for the French program on campus, which has not materialized as hoped; and to offer faculty from across the curriculum the opportunity to work with students in Paris, but we struggle each year to find interested faculty and students and have had to cancel the program three times due to lack of student interest. The program no longer serves the faculty or student needs or interests and is very labor intensive. The energy and resources dedicated to the program can be better used to serve institutional needs. ACOP and CEPP endorsed this change in May 2017.

OCSE also explored with ACOP the idea of using the Paris Fall Seminar faculty stipend funds to develop an international research grant for faculty on sabbatical. OCSE began discussions with FDC and the Dean of the Faculty's office but no decisions have been made.

EXPANSION OF AND SHIFT IN PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR SKIDMORE IN LONDON (JUNIOR PROGRAM)

OCSE proposed that Skidmore extend the current Skidmore in London spring program (London JYA) to include fall semester and full year options. This program historically only allowed for spring study in London. The original rationale for preventing Skidmore from approving a fall program in London, one having to do with the transfer of credits, has been resolved. In addition, opening the fall semester enhances student opportunities and allows equity in benefits across both semesters. Finally, opening and promoting fall study in London assists in balancing enrollments across both semesters, which is an institutional goal. ACOP endorsed this change and reported it to CEPP in November 2016.

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS FOR TRAVEL SEMINARS

ACOP and the Associate Deans of the Faculty reviewed one proposal for Travel Seminars for 2018: Life on the Line: Evolving Identity Formation on the US/Mexico Border, March 2018, Diana Barnes, World Languages & Literatures. The proposal was approved.

The fact that only one proposal was submitted concerns both OCSE and ACOP. In the coming year, OCSE plans to evaluate the current Travel Seminar structure, consider potential issues and challenges with the current system, and determine if a different rubric is called for. These discussions will involve ACOP, the Dean of the Faculty's Office, and past Travel Seminar directors.

REVIEW OF PETITIONS FOR NON-APPROVED PROGRAMS

This year we received many more petitions for spring than is typical. Five of the spring petitions were due to students' original programs being closed after students had already been accepted. This is very unusual but is something we need to be aware of as long as the global situation remains unpredictable. The remaining petitions were from students who simply found programs that fit their needs that were not already approved. As always, OCSE will continue to track which programs students are petitioning for and to consider if it makes sense to add any of the programs to the permanent approved programs list. For example, MSID Ecuador and MSID Thailand have been added to the permanent approved

programs list due to faculty and student interest and we are approaching departments about adding CIEE Seoul. These three programs not only are “repeat” petition programs, they also provide important geographic and disciplinary diversity to the overall approved programs list.

As in the past, the petitions here are those reviewed this year and are for spring 2017 and fall 2017, rather than the current academic year.

Fall petitions for spring 2017 = 29 petitions

Approved = 26

- CIEE Sharjah: American University of Sharjah; Sharjah, UAE
- CIEE Buenos Aires: Language and Culture; Buenos Aires, Argentina
- CIEE Cape Town: Service Learning; Cape Town, South Africa
- CIEE Gaborone: Arts and Sciences; Gaborone, Botswana
- CIEE Seoul: Arts and Sciences; Seoul, Korea (3 petitions)
- CIEE Wollongong: Arts and Sciences; Wollongong, Australia
- DIS Stockholm; Stockholm, Sweden (4 petitions)
- IAU College in Provence; Aix-en-Provence, France
- IES Emerging Economies: Buenos Aires and Santiago; Buenos Aires, Argentina and Santiago, Chile
- IES London and Oxford: Health Practice and Policy; London and Oxford, England
- IFSA Butler Engage Barcelona; Barcelona, Spain
- MSID: International Development in Ecuador; Quito, Ecuador
- MSID: International Development in Thailand; Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Sarah Lawrence in Cuba; Havana, Cuba
- SFS Cambodia: Conservation, Ethics and Environmental Change; Siem Reap, Cambodia
- SFS Bhutan: Himalayan Environment and Society in Transition; Bumthang, Bhutan
- SIT Chile: Cultural Identity, Social Justice and Community Development; Valparaiso, Chile
- SIT Iceland and Greenland: Climate Change and the Arctic; Reykjavik, Iceland
- SIT Mongolia: Nomadism, Geopolitics, and the Environment; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Temple Japan Semester; Tokyo, Japan
- University Center in Svalbard: Arctic Geology; Longyearbyen, Norway

Denied = 0

Withdrawn = 3

- DIS Stockholm; Stockholm, Sweden
- IES Freiburg: Environmental Studies and Sustainability; Freiburg, Germany
- Syracuse in France; Strasbourg, France

Spring petitions for fall 2017 and academic year 2017-2018 = 21 petitions

Approved = 18

- Chinese Language Institute; Guilin, China
- CIEE Seoul: Arts & Sciences; Seoul, South Korea (2 petitions)
- DIS Stockholm; Stockholm, Sweden (6 petitions)
- IES Tokyo: Language & Culture; Tokyo, Japan
- SFS Bhutan; Bumthang, Bhutan
- SIT Argentina: Social Movements and Human Rights; Buenos Aires, Argentina (2 petitions)

- SIT Argentina: Transnationalism and Comparative Development in South America; Buenos Aires, Argentina
- SIT Morocco: Migration and Transnational Identity; Rabat, Morocco
- Temple Japan; Tokyo, Japan (3 petitions)

Denied = 0

Withdrawn = 3

- Bard: Liberal Arts in Berlin; Berlin, Germany
- CIEE Seoul: Arts & Sciences; Seoul, South Korea (2 petitions)

ADDITION AND REMOVAL OF APPROVED PROGRAMS

Each year, OCSE examines the departmental and overall approved programs lists with an eye toward adding programs that might enhance a specific department's offerings or removing programs that are problematic or underutilized. We use data regarding student enrollments in each program, major enrollments in each program, and feedback from students and faculty. We share the information with department chairs, make recommendations and institute changes as necessary. This year we had quite a bit of activity on the approved programs lists.

Approved Program Added:

- Accademia dell'Arte: Physical Theater Program
- CELL Iceland
- DIS Stockholm
- IES Freiburg Environmental Studies and Sustainability
- IES Milan Business Studies
- MSID Thailand
- MSID Ecuador
- Sarah Lawrence Cinema in New York City
- University of Minnesota: Study in Dublin
- Williams-Mystic

Approved Programs Removed:

- API Florence
- API Rome
- Arcadia University – Royal Holloway
- Brown in Bologna
- CIEE Alicante
- CIEE Arts and Sciences in Hyderabad, India
- CIEE Liberal Arts Program in São Paulo, Brazil
- CIEE Warsaw
- IFSA-Butler Engage Australia, Adelaide
- Middlebury School in Italy
- MSID India (program terminated)
- SIT China
- SIT India: National Identity and the Arts (program terminated)
- SIT Senegal
- SIT Tanzania Wildlife Conservation

Report drafted by: Cori Filson, Director, Off-Campus Study & Exchanges
Report reviewed and approved by: Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Chair, ACOP
Submitted to CEPP on July 17, 2017