

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Meeting notes September 26, 2008

In attendance: Erica Bastress-Dukehart (Chair), Sylvia Franke, Leslie Mechem, Adrienne Zuerner, Cori Filson, and Tina Breakell

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The new name for ACIS is **ACOP (Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Study)**. Erica took this matter to CEPP and they approved the proposal for the committee name change.
- Erica also brought the issue of short-term proposal review to CEPP, and the conversation was inconclusive regarding Jim Chansky's involvement and the process of review. The conversations will be continued at the next CEPP meeting.
- Changes to the ACIS (ACOP) charge will be brought forth again during the next CEPP meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Cori to follow up with Muriel Poston, Rochelle Calhoun and Spelman College regarding gender issue and possible solutions. Cori will report back to ACOP via email. If needed, we will discuss the issue further in person at our next meeting.
- Cori to revise India proposal and send to Erica. Erica will present to CEPP in October.
- Tina to follow up on petition decisions and to collect additional information regarding the Parsons in Paris program. Tina will report back to ACOP via email regarding Parsons at which time a final decision will be made.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Spelman College Proposal

Erica brought up the concern that partnering with Spelman College would exclude 40% of the Skidmore College student population, because Spelman is a Historically Black College and an all-female institution, and 40% of our student body is male. The issue of discrimination was discussed. The committee feels that the benefits of the proposed program far outweigh the concerns that a percentage of our students are being excluded. For example, students who do not meet certain language requirements on our Skidmore in Paris program are excluded from participating if they do not acquire a certain level of the French language. Also, our male students have the opportunity to participate on the Howard College program through the National Student Exchange (NSE) as a suitable alternative to the Spelman program. A Howard exchange proposal exclusively between Skidmore and Howard will be forthcoming.

Erica asked that Cori contact Spelman to see if a possible collaboration with Morehouse would be a viable option. Cori will also follow up with Muriel Poston and Rochelle Calhoun about this issue before the proposal is brought to CEPP and the faculty floor.

India Program Proposal

There are no objections to this proposal. Cori will make a few grammatical edits and the proposal will go to CEPP in November. The proposed launch date of the program is Spring 2010.

Non-Approved Program Petition Review

There were three student petitions of thirteen total petitions that required ACOP discussion. NYU Berlin, Parsons School of Design in Paris, and the Institute for American Universities in Provence were brought forth due to curricular and programmatic concerns.

First, NYU Berlin was discussed. The student who petitioned had no German language experience, so she would not qualify for the programs in Germany listed on our approved programs list. The new IES Metropolitan Studies program would not suit her needs because she was not particularly interested in urban or women's studies. The NYU program model was discussed, and OCSE raised the concern that NYU programs do not foster immersion and are often too island, lacking the on-site student support that our students have come to expect. However, this particular student's focus is German History, and NYU was the only program that did not require the German language, which could offer coursework in her area of interest. It was determined that in this one instance we will approve the NYU Berlin program, and obtain feedback from the student upon her return to see if the History Department would like to add this to their list. The student was approved.

Second, a student petitioned for a program in Aix-in-Provence through the Institute for American Universities. The student has four semesters of college-level French, which qualifies her for the Skidmore in Paris and Skidmore approved Aix-in-Provence programs. She did not want to apply to the approved programs listed because she was not comfortable with her language level, and was more interested in one Mediterranean Studies class offered on the program she petitioned to. The committee determined that she did not have a compelling enough academic reason to participate on a non-approved program, and should instead apply to programs on the approved programs list. The student was denied.

Finally, a student petitioned for Parsons School of Design in Paris. OCSE had concerns about this program because it is not accredited through Parsons and they severely limited the course options for international students. Additionally, there is very little on-site support available to the student if she were to decide to participate. The committee determined that as long as we provided information about accreditation and the courses were not just continuing education courses, the student would be approved to participate. OCSE has since determined that Parsons Paris is accredited through the National Association of Schools of Art & Design (NASAD) and that they offer courses designed specifically for study abroad students. With this information, the committee approved the petition. The student will be advised on the lack of on-site support.

Non-Approved Program Spring 2009 Petition Overview:

13 Petitions Submitted
12 Approved
1 Denied

APPROVED FOR SPRING 2009:

ASIALEARN, Hong Kong, China (Christy Harmong Yip, '10)
CIEE Prague, Prague, Czech Republic (Emily Goldman, '10)
CIEE Sao Paolo, Liberal Arts, Brazil (Kariela Alimonte, '10)
CIEE Sao Paolo, Liberal Arts, Brazil (Brent Smart, '10)
CIEE Seville, Teaching Development, Seville, Spain (Emily Gordon '10)
Frontiers Abroad, Christchurch, New Zealand (Audrey Wronski, '10)
Frontiers Abroad, Christchurch, New Zealand (Vincent Weeks, '10)
IES Abroad, Metropolitan Studies, Berlin, Germany (Hardington McCall, '11)
IHP, Health & Community, Several Countries-Track 1 (Victoria Strang, '10)
NYU Berlin, Berlin, Germany (Mary Link Hurd, '10)
Parsons School of Design, Paris, France (Clara Jauquet, '10)
USAC, Shanghai, China (Silas Doyle-Burr, '09)

DENIED FOR SPRING 2009:

Institute for American Universities, Aix-in-Provence, France (Arielle Bernard, '10)

ITEMS FOR NEXT ACOP MEETING:

- Erica requested that the committee discuss the policy regarding the addition and deletion of programs to the departmental approved programs list. There needs to also be a conversation regarding the approved program departmental list review and the upcoming review process as departments reach their three year mark.
- Cori would like to discuss the process of changing approved program providers on the list.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Breakell, Program Manager, Off-Campus Study & Exchanges
October 1, 2008