

**USG Study Abroad Committee  
September 14, 2007 Meeting  
Macon State College**

**Attendance:**

Tracy Harrington(Bainbridge), Ulf Kirchdorfer(Darton), Liz Havey (GCSU), Jeff Palis(GA Southern), Leigh Walker(GSU), Jane Knight(MGC), Dlynn Armstrong(NGCSU), Cornelius State. Mark(Savannah State), David Starling(VSU), David de Posada(MSC), Brian Ray(ABAC), Megan Powell(EU Council ISEP), Andrew Dawson(GA Highland), Victoria Dubriel (Ft.Valley St.), Jonathan Elimimian(Albany State), Jana Sandary(Agusta State), Garry Merritt(Gainsville State.), Bernard Anderson(KSU), Adrienne Langston(GA Perimeter), Heather Mbaye(UWG), Baogong Guo(Dalton State), Ofelia Nivolova(VSU), Farrah Bernardo(GSU), Bill Beaver(AASU), Jose A. da Cruz(AASU), Jill Schulse(Gainsville State.), Charles Johnson(VSU)

**Minutes**

The study abroad committee meeting was called to order at 11:55am.

**State of Study Abroad in the Nation** – Rick Sutton opens with the need for the committee to address the financial and credit transfer process. Policy needs to be formed regarding financial relationship between institutions and third-party providers. Credit transfers from study abroad to home institution must not be as restrictive as in the past, and the current policy needs to be amended. Finally, Study Abroad must be adequately supported on a financial basis. Statements are needed regarding transparency with other-party providers and anyone who is providing services on SA. He also asked if the institutions represented would like individual representation in the Forum for Education Abroad.

The committee briefly addresses that the Board of Regents does not mandate how Study Abroad is funded through each institution, but that it is suggested to treat it similar to other academic departments. Rick Sutton left 12:15 pm.

**USG/System Important Dates and Announcements** – Susan Pratt provided a handout with important upcoming events and issues that need to be addressed by the various institutions. Liz Harvey requests the OIE catalogue be updated; it receives the most hits on its website and many students are sent there for information. Also, study abroad insurance is very important for each student. Susan Pratt is revising the study abroad handbook on risk management, as requested by the Board of Regents legal staff. Please review the chapter and give her feedback.

**STARS** – Dlynn Armstrong-Williams requested that students who sign up earlier be given the option of a \$750 award. Liz Harvey said students pay taxes on amounts greater than \$500. Awards limited to how many have been historically awarded and used.

**Workshop Topics** – Tracy Harrington notes alcohol consumption in foreign settings needs to be addressed along with cultural differences and what is appropriate to that culture. With regards to establishing limits, orientation for students to remind them of cultural differences is very important. Liz Harvery suggests Academic Integrity and Semester and Summer Programs as a workshop topic. Other topics suggested include transient status, how HOPE credits are applied, and professionalization so that each campus can have a study abroad office.

**Two-Year Institutions**—Dlynn Armstrong proposes a sub-committee for two year institutions. This committee will submit a summary of concerns. Since many of the concerns between two year institutions and small four-year colleges are similar, these may be able to assist one another. Ulf Kirchdorfer is appointed head of the committee. It's members include: Tracy Harrington, Bryan Ray, Jill Schultz, and Megan Powell.

**Third Party Providers**—Committee asked to be aware of all programs offered by respective institution. Universities must know the location of students studying abroad so that there is minimal confusion in communication with parents, academic departments, presidents, etc.

**Cadet Language Programs**—Dr. Armstrong-Williams notes NGCSU is the military college of Georgia and is actively pursuing participation in the ROTC Language Project. Hopefully NGSCU will be a conduit for cadets to study abroad. Partnerships between the GA National Guard and the Republic Georgia as well as an African country is developing, Armstrong-Williams will keep the committee informed.

The committee also had a brief discussion about the usefulness of the STARS brochure and other forms of advertising for study abroad programs.

**Adjournment: 1:30pm**