

**Advisory Committee on International Study
Meeting notes from February 20, 2006**

- Cori will research with API the time commitment and expectations for board members on their new Academic Advisory Board and follow up with the appropriate chair(s).

Agenda Items:

1. Lorenzo de'Medici, Florence, Italy, (through Academic Programs International)
 - Lorenzo de'Medici is an institution in Florence that provides courses to US and other international students studying abroad. They have beautiful facilities. However, for many reasons, there has been concern over their academic program.
 - After Marie Alice's site visit last spring OIP did consider recommending the removal of Lorenzo de'Medici from the approved programs list because of these academic concerns. At the time Lorenzo de'Medici and API both recognized that there were problems with rigor. Lorenzo de'Medici then said improving the rigor was a priority. Since that time Lorenzo de'Medici has begun establishing an Academic Advisory Board to work with a newly appointed Vice President for Academic Affairs.

housing, all done directly through OIP and partner institutions. Additionally there is a drain on Skidmore resources. The Dean of Faculty has indicated that there has been a drain on departments. Sometimes requiring a full time replacement.

- Our partner institutions are finding it difficult to commit to office space and/or to a teaching position. Until their own enrollment/registration has been finalized they would not be able to guarantee a teaching spot for our director in their field. The timing of that would be untenable for our potential directors.
- If we want to continue to be able to offer a faculty opportunity is there another route we can take? Faculty have benefited from being involved with the Skidmore students in the study abroad environment. Developing the position differently may also open the opportunity further, decreasing the pressure on the departments from which the current directors traditionally come.
- How could the position be redeveloped? What about overseeing internship opportunities or collaborative research for senior thesis classes? The director could assist students in recognizing research opportunities while in London. Direct them on how to set up basis of work, gather research, for senior year projects. Would be a real advantage to going to the Skidmore in London. A reinsertion piece could also be developed. Pub nights could have more of a purpose.
- If there isn't a need for a Director in London why develop this there? There are lots of places where students go abroad and don't "get it". One reason is that many students who go abroad want to return. It might make sense to build upon the first year program and keep the program there.
- Cori introduced another consideration. From conversations with Skidmore's current partner institutions we could move the program to the fall semester. Our partners have said students would have better opportunities to enroll in the classes of their choice and have better housing opportunities. It would also give the students three semesters to build upon their experience once back at home. Skidmore could make a better connection between the first year students and the Skidmore in London students. This could make a very rich program.
- This would still leave questions as to how to structure the oversight for the program. Could the first year directors also oversee the junior group? This would mean losing a faculty opportunity abroad.
- Here the committee ran out of time. Although the committee felt that the Bath option would be problematic as the London Director should be in London, it felt that all options should be explored further.

Note: Since the meeting it became apparent that the call for applications for the London Directorship needed to happen quickly. The committee approved a recommendation to post for applications for the spring 2007 position indicating in the announcement that there will be "a teaching opportunity" without specific details. As people express interest Cori will be able to talk to them about the various possibilities and determine their willingness to be flexible until we have a solution.