

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. ~~Cori will report back to CEPP in October.~~ Cori will report back to CEPP in October. 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 ar

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 in the NYU Berlin program, and should petition for another program.

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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