

Global Engagement Program Council Minutes

18 September 2013

1:35p meeting called to order

Council Members Present: Rachel Adler (Sociology), Winnie Brown-Glaude (African-American Studies), Luke Butler (Biology), Seung Hee Choi (Finance), Jaimie DeMarco (Student), Gary Fienberg (Music), Cynthia Paces, Chair (History), Jon Stauff (Center for Global Engagement).

Also present: Ruth Palmer (Secondary Ed/Ed Admin)

1. Minutes from 4 Sep. approved.

2. The committee discussed a proposal submitted by Ruth Palmer and Winnie Brown-Glaude for a new winter session course to Trinidad. A formal study abroad course proposal, a syllabus, and a detailed budget had been distributed among the committee prior to the meeting. In discussion, Dr. Palmer and Dr. Brown-Glaude described some of the background, context, and goals of the course. The course will take place during the pre-Carnival period of the year, when Trinidadians are engaged in preparing for Carnival in a variety of ways. Students will participate in some of these preparations and observe many others. One of the intellectual lenses for the course is to understand how Trinidadian identity is expressed and passed on through the cultural practices of pre-Carnival preparations. Another goal of the course is to confront pre-conceived notions about the Caribbean at multiple levels (e.g., race, religion, language, culture). Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal/course design. Jon Stauff reported on the budget. Discussion about the benefits of opening the course to non-TCNJ students, and pedagogical/educational disadvantages of having some students participate without taking the course for graded credit.

Action item: Number 4 of the course proposal should be amended to indicate that students will take the course for credit.

The committee approved Dr. Palmer and Dr. Brown-Glaude going forward with planning and recruiting for the course, tentatively scheduled to run for the first time this year (January 2014), with hopes that it will run in future years as well.

3. Report from Jon Stauff. Study Abroad fair went well, many students signed up for more info. Additional info sessions will take place on 15 and 17 October. Turkey and London each have 15 students registered for winter session. Discussion of how to leverage current campus programs to internationalize the campus. For example, 15 students are here as part of TCNJ's ESL program (from, e.g., France, Egypt, and India). We partner with American Council for International Education to promote our campus as a destination for students from other countries. Jon Stauff recently returned from a trip promoting TCNJ in Turkey.

Action item: Invite Monica Jacobe to an upcoming committee meeting.

4. Discussion of Ramapo College's sustainable development study abroad program in India and whether to approve it for TCNJ students. The semester is comprised of four, one-month mini-courses: culture, development, social movements, and a field study project culminating in a final paper. Courses are taught by Ramapo faculty from international studies/anthropology, communication arts, and environmental studies. Dr. Ashwani Vasishth, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies at Ramapo, was recently on campus to discuss the program. Members of the committee viewed the program positively, and expressed interest in seeing information about the academics of the program, e.g., a syllabus, an example of a final project report, etc.

Action item: Obtain these items and distribute to the committee in preparation for a vote on the program at the next committee meeting.

5. Discussion about risk management. Jon Stauff will work with Rachel Adler and Luke Butler as needed to develop risk management policies and procedures. The full committee will be informed of the trio's activities and progress.

6. Cynthia Paces confirmed that the new official name of this council is the Global Engagement Program Council.

7. Announcement from Jon Stauff regarding a campus-wide presentation 23 October by an archaeologist from Italy, Sara Levi, currently at TCNJ teaching a course. The professor has a field site on the island of Stromboli, and she is interested in having TCNJ students work on the dig in the summer as part of a large international summer crew.

Action item: Invite Sara Levi for council meeting on 2 October to discuss.

2:50p Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Luke Butler.