International Education Program Council

1:30pm, December 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Lawrence McCauley, Holly Didi-Ogren, Elizabeth Mackie, Susanna Monseau, Andrea Salgian, Michael Shenoda, Jon Stauff, Thulsi Wickramasinghe, Simona Wright, Katelyn Crawford

Excused: Julianna Kopakowski, Kristen Zalan.

 The minutes from the October and November meetings were approved.

1. Petition for study abroad by Emily Rebecca Ingram who is pursuing a self-designed major in linguistics and Spanish and is looking to study abroad at the Canada Institute of Linguistics at Trinity Western University, a program not approved by TCNJ.

The approval of the self-designed major depends on the approval of her study abroad.

The IEPC expressed concern that we do not have any information about the program. Indeed, the application is incomplete, and while Jon has checked the institution’s website and talked to faculty recommending the student, she should have done the research herself. The student needs to submit materials about the institution and details about the self-designed major to complete the application. She also needs to explain why the program at the school that she is applying to works for her self-designed major. She is welcome to come to the IEPC’s discussion about her application.

1. Follow-up discussion on the off-campus, faculty-led program guidelines and evaluation criteria. Holly will send two documents, procedure and policy, to the IEPC members and we will revise electronically before the next meeting. Procedural information will be made available to people interested in applying this year, even though the document will not be finalized by that time. Assessment would be a very good addition to the procedure, as it helps with accountability.
2. Update from Jon on CGE activities. Provost Bresnahan expressed that internationalization and globalization is one of her two priorities.

Jon is researching institutions that are appropriate for our students from an academic standpoint.

Jon’s email to the IEPC containing CGE updates is attached.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm. Next meeting will be on February 2, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Salgian

From: "Jon Stauff" <stauffj@tcnj.edu>
To: "Holly A. Ogren" <ogren@tcnj.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 7:56:17 AM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern
Subject: Update for IEPC - Please distribute when you can

Dear IEPC Friends - there just has never seemed to be "time" this year to share with you some of the work we've been doing in the Center for Global Engagement.  We've been busy!  I want to provide a quick update on some of the projects we've been developing.

Before I do, though, please let me preface my remarks to say how satisfying it has been to work with TCNJ students, faculty, and staff over the past fifteen months.  I'd like to single out Mark Kiselica, my immediate supervisor, for his steadfast support and unbridled enthusiasm for these various global initiatives.  Mark has had a hand in practically everything I'm presenting below, and he deserves a pat on the back for his efforts on behalf of internationalization at TCNJ.  While I sometimes stumble along the path in Ewing still...TCNJ has a different culture, after all, and it takes time to learn it!...Mark is always there to provide not only wisdom and guidance, but also comfort and friendship.  He's been wonderful.

OK, on with the show:

**Numbers for 2010-2011** - Spring 2010 - 61, Fall 2010 - 73, Spring 2011 - 91 - the increase from Spring 2010 to Spring 2011 is encouraging and hopefully a sign that we have overcome the recession a bit.  The truly encouraging thing for me has been the increase in traffic in the office - we have our SIT intern, Stephanie Holleran, working quite a bit with student advising, and we have an excellent GA in Bess Myers (English), who has been doing well.  Rose Raimundo is always there for student advising as well (I continue to share her with Beverly Kalinowski, whose summer school has been moved to Advancement under new AVP Bill Behre).

Applications for faculty-led programs are trickling in.  Here's the headcount as of Monday a.m.:

Australia: 7

China: 1 (just started recruiting)

Cornwall: 7

Galapagos: 16/closed

Harlaxton: 12

Madrid: 10

Rome: 21

Russia: 1

For most of these programs, we will continue to accept applications into February (maybe with the exception of Russia - we may need to make a call on that program earlier).  There is a competitive internship program in Engineering that has students on the fence a bit...we know that there are 3-5 students who are completing applications now plus a similar number who are waiting for the internship program to make selections in early January, so we remain confident that the Australia program will "go."  Last year there were approximately 120 students in faculty-led programs, and we'll be fortunate to get back to that number this year (even without "Greece," which is a big draw).

Looking forward, I have been approached by a number of faculty who have an interest in developing new faculty-led programs for 2012.  I've shared with them our work on policy/guidelines this semester and let them know that I would be in touch after the December meeting with a formal timeline and a proposal form for their use.

**Technology:** We submitted a request to IT for a software package called Horizons, offered by the Symplicity software company (which works with TCNJ Career Center to provide a number of software packages).  Horizons (as well as its main competitor, StudioAbroad) allow study abroad offices to maintain directories of program options, digitalize the application process to allow for online apps, and essentially automate many office procedures to cut down on paper as well as human work requirements.  StudioAbroad is wonderful, but it's more expensive and is still fairly "study abroad specific," whereas Horizons is part of a software package that would allow my office to interface with other similar offices on campus as well as PeopleSoft in general.    It's a practical decision to go in the direction of Horizons.  We'll see if we get support for the purchase in the IT Budget deliberations in December.

**ISA Agreement:** I initiated a re-negotiation of the ISA agreement with TCNJ.  Boy, what a process this has been!  Our General Counsel, Tom Mahoney, has been working directly with Rafael Hoyle on this...I'll spare you the details, but I will be cracking open a bottle of champagne when all is said and done.  Cutting to the chase - Tom Mahoney does not have significant concerns about ISA providing TCNJ with site visit support, so I think we will be able to get those site visits back in the new agreement and begin to send faculty to ISA programs again.

**2012 China Trip - BIE Grant**: As part of the TCNJ Business and Int'l Ed grant focusing on "Doing Business in China," I need to travel to China to explore study abroad and internship opportunities for TCNJ students.  I will be doing this with Ben Rifkin from 25 Feb to 13 Mar 2011.  We will be visiting Beijing (CIEE, China Studies Institute, CAPA, TEAN), Xi'an (Xi'an Int'l Studies University, where TCNJ benefactor Gale Wayman will be teaching next semester), Nanjing (CIEE), Shanghai (CIEE, ISA, TEAN), and Hangzhou (Central College Abroad, Zhejiang University).  Yes, we will be busy!  The trip has been a bear to plan...but the rewards will be significant.  We had five students in China this semester and I think we have a similar number next semester, which is up from "1" in 2009-2010.

**Program Development and Partnerships:** Upon my arrival at TCNJ, I found a number of new deans who wanted to grow the numbers of students studying abroad in their schools.  Most of these "new students" would come from departments and programs that have not been sending large numbers of students abroad - engineering, business majors outside of Int'l Business, the arts, and of course "everyone in the School of Culture and Society."  No dean has expressed a willingness NOT to have their students go abroad, which has led to discussions about short-term courses in summer and winter in addition to semester programs abroad.  While we want more of these students to engage in a serious study of language, we don't want the lack of a language to prevent anyone from an international experience.  That said, here are some of the work we've done over the past six months of so:

**a) Heidelberg - School of Business** - When Bill Keep visited Goethe U Frankfurt in May, it was clear that, while TCNJ students \_could\_ study Business at the university, there was a clear preference for those students NOT to be semester exchange students.  There was also a clear preference that we send students to Frankfurt who had had at least the 101-102-103 sequence in German.  (FYI - this year all eight exchange places to Frankfurt are filled by TCNJ students who have had at least three semesters of German language - very impressive!)  We visited our new exchange partner in France (Blaise Pascal) as well as the Univ of Economics in Prague...both good programs for SoB students, but not sites where we could send a cohort of students above/beyond a handful.  The dean wants all business majors - not just IB majors - to consider a semester abroad.  One of our stops in France was to Strasbourg, where a German provider, CEPA-Europe, manages a Georgia State University program in European Studies that is hosted by the University of Strasbourg.  Bill and I met with CEPA-Europe's Ulrike Leibrecht, and I think Bill liked what he saw - the program is a hybrid of several Georgia State courses with direct enrollment opportunities for students at the Univ of Strasbourg in courses taught in English as well as French.  CEPA-Europe markets the program nationally, and Georgia State transcripts the program.

Uli Leibrecht approached TCNJ over the summer with a proposal to have TCNJ play the role of Georgia State in a similar program (this one focused on Business Studies) based at a private university of the applied sciences in Heidelberg, Germany (less than an hour from Frankfurt) called SRH Heidelberg.  (Unfortunately, there are no business courses at the famed Univ of Heidelberg.)  Uli met with Mark Kiselica and Bill Keep (as well as several faculty members, Beverly, and me) several times over the past few months, and next week Prof. Bozena Leven and I will travel to Germany to visit CEPA-Europe's facilities in Heidelberg as well as SRH Heidelberg.  Our goal will be to determine whether SRH's academic offerings will "work" for TCNJ - academic quality, course content, hours of coursework available - and we will inspect CEPA's facilities in Heidelberg (dorms, common areas, student support).  In a perfect world, the program would include a lib learning course in German culture/civilization (with a survival language component built in/evaluated), an INB course with an experiential component, and German language at all levels provided by CEPA-Europe; 2-3 courses at SRH Heidelberg taught in English; possible short-courses or "blended learning" courses offered by TCNJ faculty.

Dollars and cents-wise, we feel we can keep the program fee in the in-state range for TCNJ tuition/room/board, and we would have the added financial attraction of gaining a transcription fee from CEPA for processing transcripts...so some of that program fee would stay at TCNJ, likely to fund the faculty who would go and teach short courses (or stay for the semester).

**b) Partnership with Globalinks Learning Abroad (AustraLearn, EuroLearn...) on Short-term Program Development** - Last academic year the Exec Director of Globalinks, Cynthia Banks (who is completing her year as chair of NAFSA's Education Abroad Knowledge Community - I have served with her on the national team for two years), approached me to discuss how TCNJ might participate in GLA's expansion into short-term programs.  AustraLearn/now GLA has been a leading provider of semester-long opportunities for twenty years that has developed short-term programs for hundreds of schools, and GLA has found that they provide many proposals for short programs that fail to garner enough students to run on their campuses.  GLA has been struggling to determine how best to capture that lost income (from their perspective) and offer quality academic programs...without having a faculty of its own.  Cynthia's proposal is that TCNJ work together with GLA to develop high-quality, short-term academic programs abroad for a national market.  TCNJ faculty would develop a course and deliver it overseas, recruiting TCNJ students on campus, and GLA would market these programs nationally among its hundreds of affiliates.  TCNJ would transcript the classes and gain a transcripting fee for every student enrolled in the program.

Benefits for TCNJ: i) our faculty would have opportunities to develop a course (that would need to be approved by the appropriate curriculum committee at TCNJ), teach it overseas, and gain international experience; ii) we would not have to populate the programs with only TCNJ students - GLA would market the programs nationally, handle the application process, and essentially "do everything" that our Center for Global Engagement does...except transcript the program; iii) we gain a transcription fee from GLA for each student (to be negotiated, but similar to the TCNJ application fee of $400); iv) TCNJ gains a permanent seat on GLA's advisory board (alongside other permanent members - U of Minnesota, U of Colorado, Champan U); v) we market the TCNJ brand nationally - if we want more out-of-state students and more name recognition beyong the Garden State, we need to be involved in certain things on a national level.  Personally, I like the idea of having this partnership available to faculty who would never be able to get 15-20 students to run a program on our campus, but who would be great representatives of TCNJ and who would benefit so much from teaching a four-to-six week course overseas.  There are possible benefits here for Nursing, Exercise Science, Arts and Communication...potentially for all schools, particularly Engineering.

Cynthia visited with a number of people in November and left very enthused about our campus, Ewing (she loved the fall foliage!), and the potential for the partnership.  I think this is a wonderful opportunity for TCNJ that doesn't necessarily "compete" with anything we've been offering along the lines of short-term program development to date.  This may be a way to engage the School of Engineering, the School of Nursing, and other departments on campus that wrestle with "numbers."

**c) Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israrel** - In my three semesters at TCNJ, I have had anywhere from six-ten students a semester come to us, asking about study abroad in Israel.  Of course I understand security concerns in the Middle East and I understand that not everyone loves the Israeli government.  At the same time, we are sending students to the Middle East on a regular basis to Arab countries with similar security concerns and similar political challenges.  Dozens of our students travel to Israel every year on Birthright programs, and there are several excellent universities in Israel...it's clear to me that we need to consider some type of "approved program" for Israel, and Mark Kiselica concurred.

Last year we received an e-mail from the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia to participate in some information meetings about higher ed in Israel, and in the course of those meetings I met a number of representatives from Israeli universities.  These universities are setting aside money to develop partnerships with US institutions, and they are involved in a mating dance with us as much as we are involved in the dance with them.  I followed up with them at the NAFSA meeting in Kansas City, and I engaged a number of deans and faculty members re: academic opportunities for our students.  Most of the universities had the standard Jewish and Israeli studies coursework that would work for C&S/Int'l Studies students, but I tried to look beyond those courses to see "what else" the university offered and how they offered it.  Based on faculty and administration feedback and my own gut feelings, I sought out Ben-Gurion U of the Negev in Beersheva and will be proposing them to you for a number of reasons: i) a foundation class called "The Israeli Mosaic" that includes an internship component; ii) the David Ben-Gurion Archives on campus allow for primary source research in History and Int'l Studies; iii) Desert Ecology coursework and research opportunities at a number of research institutes on campus; iv) coursework tracks in Sustainable Development and Global Health that mesh well with a number of our curricula; v) BGU is not a "commuter school" - people from all over Israel come to study there; vi) Beersheva is 90 minutes from both Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv (accessible, but not "in" those two cities)...so students gain some sense of a pioneering spirit that is so much part of the Israeli experience; vii) BGU seeks a partnership - research collaboration, exchange of faculty speakers, et al. - not just a one-way linkage.

Rachel Adler (Sociology/Anthropology), Luke Butler (Biology), and I will be visiting BGU at their invitation in early January to conduct a site visit, meet with BGU faculty and administration, and explore the possibilities for this relationship.  The goal would be to develop this program for Fall 2011, and we already have two students who have asked to attend BGU (without any knowledge of this project).  We have also agreed to work together with other NJ state institutions, should we find BGU to be a worthy partner, to process their students' applications for BGU and deliver the grade reports to them.  We would be able to report back to the IEPC in February and use the spring semester to recruit students to the program, should it meet with approval.  Mark Kiselica will join us for the presentation of this program in February - he has been an enthusiastic cheerleader of these efforts.

**Miscellany -** Here are a few more things:

* International House - Stephanie Holleran, our SIT intern, has been a force for good re: I-House.  The I-House ship continues to sail, but the seas are bumpy at times...more often than not due to understaffing and staff turnover in Student Affairs.  We had so much in place last April for this year's edition...then there was a staff departure in June, Student Affairs lost that person's files, and we ended up starting from scratch in September when SA couldn't fill the position right away.  Sigh.  That said, Stephanie has done well to provide some structure to the program activities.  She conducted an intercultural communication workshop with Dr. Waheeda Lillevik from the SoB this semester, organized Thanksgiving dinner and off-campus team building exercises, and is developing a manual that will be passed down from year to year to whomever is working on the I-House project.  Student Affairs has asked me to cut down the size of the Steering Committee and we will discuss that...we meet every other week and have been discussing some type of curricular component to add.
* Study Abroad Fair - September's fair was fairly well attended despite the location behind Brower - people who came KNEW they wanted to study abroad!  We are going to do an information fair event on Wed, Feb 2, as Rider is doing one on the previous day and all of our partners will be in town.
* Peer Advisors - we will continue to develop this group...after one semester, we have about twenty students who are in the group and they have done well.  I'd like to use them more effectively, and we are learning as we go along.
* The Consortium is Dead/Long Live the New Jersey Partnership for Study Abroad - we have had monthly meetings of study abroad professionals in NJ since May.  We are not running "programs" like NJSCIS did.  Rather, we are talking about best practices in such this as pre-departure orientation, re-entry, risk management, marketing and recruitment, and other topics.  This Friday we are meeting at Montclair, and reps from Ramapo, NJCU, Kean, Montclair, St. Peter's, Felician, TCNJ, Rutgers, Princeton, Rider, and Seton Hall will be in attendance.  Other schools that have expressed an interest - Monmouth, Mercer CCC, Drew, and WPU.  Engaging Rutgers will change everything...I'm excited by the potential.  I'm organizing a workshop on risk management - tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2011 - and we are already planning a second edition of a re-entry conference for returnee students for Fall 2011.

I think this is enough for one post!  Thanks for your continued interest and support of our efforts in int'l education at TCNJ!  I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday at 1:30.

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