

USG Study Abroad Committee Meeting Minutes

Jim Anderson - Armstrong Atlantic
Chris Bourdouvalis- Augusta State
Rich Bennett- Southern Polytechnic
Nancy Shumaker- GA Southern
Patrick Brennan- Macon State
Misty Holm- Georgia State
Roma Cibirka- Medical College
Cornelius St. Mark- Savannah State
Harriet Nichols- Georgia Perimeter
Mid Brock- Darton College
Neal McCrillis- Columbus State
Florence Wakoko- Columbus State
Philip Szmedra - Georgia Southwestern
Dwight Call- Georgia College
Lisa Mallory- Atlanta Metropolitan
Tracy Harrington- Valdosta State
Jill Clemmons- Valdosta State
Martha Hughes- East Georgia
Karen Guffey- Gordon College
Patricia Ryan Ikegarioum- Albany State
Chaudron Gille- Gainesville

initiatives on their respective campuses. There are several new programs, initiatives, and activities

(http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/collab_grant04.phtml) for creating study abroad partnerships in underserved geographic and academic areas. Amy Henry, Leigh Walker, Jim Anderson, Susan Leisure, and Sue Sugarman worked on the RFP, while Dwight Call, David Starling, Dan Paracka, Jim and Sue worked on identifying the underserved academic disciplines and underserved geographic regions. The target areas for this year's proposal is Latin America or Eastern Europe, and disciplines were health, education, and math/computer science. Partnerships with 2-year campuses and institutions with few study abroad program offerings will be given special consideration. Funds can be used for planning, site visits, and support to defray program costs and an in-kind campus match of at least 25% is required. The in-kind match could be monetary or could be a course release, faculty time or materials (phone calls, photocopies, secretarial support, etc). This grant is designed to be an annual offering, and emphasis on locations and academic disciplines will change from year to year. Jim indicated that there will be a selection committee from among the committee membership to help select the proposals that will be supported by grant funding.

Jim then began a discussion about the continuation of the USG Study Abroad Catalog in its current format. Many members felt that students and administrators are impressed by the appearance and comprehensive content of the catalog as it is a good source of initial information about study abroad programs in the USG. At the same time, there was concern about the cost of producing the catalog as well as the time commitment required to produce it. The committee was reminded to take advantage of the on-line version http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/catalog/programs.phtml as students can search by field of study, country, or term.

David Starling gave a brief overview of ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/study_abroad/isep.phtml and the System's progress in meeting the goal of sending at least 25 students abroad on ISEP programs each year. The ISEP consortium, USG campuses who are sending and receiving institutions for ISEP, are Armstrong (new member), Columbus, Georgia College, Kennesaw, North Georgia, West Georgia, and Valdosta. David reminded the committee that ISEP provides virtually unlimited possibilities for overseas study in both English and other languages in virtually every discipline imaginable. Any student in the USG is eligible to participate in an ISEP program. Students who attend institutions other than the 7 consortium members are sent outbound as transient students at one of the 7 institutions, and credits are

members to see how they were handling the situation.

A copy of the USG study abroad pre-departure handbook was distributed, and members who wished to receive an electronic version signed up to have a copy sent to them via email. The orientation handbook is a template that was designed to be tailored to campus-specific programs and issues, and Sue asked that campuses please submit suggestions for additional topics or content.

Jim indicated that last year, the System Study Abroad Conference was cancelled in favor of offering smaller, more tailored workshops to better meet the study abroad needs of campuses in the USG. Topics that would be included in the regional mini-workshops are marketing/publicity, registrar and financial aid issues, ISEP, and study abroad funding.

The System office is in the process of revising the USG Study Abroad Program Development Handbook, and the office hopes to have it ready by the spring so that the recipients of the collaborative grant funding can have an updated guide to help them plan new study abroad programs.

Announcements included the following:

- An organizational meeting for a proposed Middle East Consortium will meet on Friday, January 23 from 1-3 at Macon State in room 106 of building K.
- The Americas Council Conference will take place February 20-21 at Armstrong Atlantic.
- The International Students and Scholars Committee meeting will be held Friday January 23rd at Macon State from 10-12 in room 106 of building K.
- The European Council and the Faculty and Curriculum Committee meetings will be held on Friday February 27 at Macon State.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon, January, 16, 2004

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