

DATE: MAY 16, 2006

TO: The CSUEB Academic senate

FROM: Michael D. Lee, Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography & Environmental Studies

SUBJECT: 2005-06 Year End-Report, CSUEB Representative to the CSU Academic Council on International Programs

I sadly announce that this is the last time I shall be presenting this report to the Academic Senate since my term of office expires this year and the baton will be passed to Donna Wiley of the Business School who was appointed to the post of Representative to the CSU Academic Council on International Programs by this Academic Senate and will take over on June 1st. However, I will continue to be part of the ACIP for one more year as Ex-Officio Chair and will happily assist Donna in making a successful transition and help her to assume a central role in the activities of this body and in the promotion of Study Abroad in the CSU and at CSUEB. I thank the Academic Senate for having given me the chance to serve the CSU and our campus these last six years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

1. Student Applications to Study Abroad

Applications to Study Abroad from CSUEB fell slightly from the previous year even though inquiries this year seemed robust and likely to yield double-figures. With the departure of campus coordinator Wagaye Johannes to continue her career in international education in Budapest, Hungary, the responsibilities for organizing the application process fell to Kelly Moran, current Director of the Center for International Education at CSUEB. Having held a week of promotional activities on international education at CSUEB in the Fall, we were hoping for bigger numbers, especially with this year marking the start of recruitment to three new study sites in Africa in Ghana and South Africa. However, even with greater publicity on campus than ever before and the growing number of faculty and staff familiar with the study abroad program offered by the CSU, we only received six applicants to the northern hemisphere programs (US academic year) and two applicants to the southern hemisphere programs (calendar year). Having said that, all six of the northern hemisphere applicants were accepted to the program, although one to his second choice Sweden rather than his first choice Italy. We are very hopeful that our two applicants to Australia will prove successful, both having strong GPAs and good qualities well suited to the Study Abroad program. One of the reasons why our numbers are lower this year than last is the decline and recent cancellation for 2006/07 of the BCLAD bilingual credential program in Mexico to which we annually have sent 4-6 students. Due to issues over the legality of federal financial aid to one-year overseas programs, the future of the BCLAD program has been uncertain for some time and resulted in a significant drop in student applications this year that made it impossible for it to function. Thus it is currently being evaluated by the CSU and Office of International Programs to try and reconstitute it in a new format that can permit financial aid to be offered and that will attract a critical mass of students.

In summary, our six successful applicants were accepted to study abroad in France, China, Italy, Sweden and Chile (2). One of our students to Chile received one of four system-wide International Programs Scholarships and it is likely that our applicant to China will receive a Wang Family Scholarship although the status of this application is not known to me at this time. The majors being studied by these students include Environmental Studies, History (Latin America), History, Mass Communication, Sociology and International Studies. A number of

these students had language minors. Our two applicants to Australia are Kinesiology and Recreation majors respectively.

On the whole, applications to Study Abroad across the CSU were fairly consistent with last year. Some 755 students applied to the northern hemisphere programs compared to the 751 last year and 622 were accepted to their program of choice compared to 638 last year. I do not know how many applicants there are to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa although it is likely that there will be around 100 and around 50 places will be available. At the ACIP Spring meeting here at CSUEB, we were provided with a budget projection for 2006/07 which indicated that the average cost per student for Study Abroad (i.e. the cost to the State of California) is expected to be around \$7,300, ranging from a low of zero \$ to a high of \$10,400 for the most expensive program. The total cost of the program is \$4.5 million with the majority of financing coming from the General Fund and student fees. We were not given a table of the number of applications by campus at our Spring meeting so I am unable to compare CSUEB against other CSUs as I have in previous reports to the Academic Senate. However, anecdotally, a number of other commuter campuses reported that their numbers were down, with some like CSU Bakersfield having no applicants this year compared to the small number they would normally get.

2. Faculty Participation and Opportunities in Study Abroad

Faculty Interviewers

Response to calls for staff and faculty to promote Study Abroad and to interview Study Abroad applicants was very high this year with lots of new names added to the list of Veterans of Study Abroad Interviews. In February we used 20 different interviewers but had an additional 18 volunteers who could not be used. In May we used another 12 faculty and staff in interviews but had a total of 22 volunteers to my email request for assistance, increasing the total pool of volunteers for 2005-06 to around 45 staff and faculty.

Resident Directors

It is my understanding that we did not have any applicants for Resident Director (RD) from CSUEB this year for the available positions in China, France, Mexico, Spain and Italy. In fact the Faculty Affairs Committee are concerned that the number of applicants has been decreasing and that the ACIP needs to do more to explain and promote the role of RD and the nature of the competitive selection process to eligible full-time faculty from across the CSU. Donna will be working with the ACIP to do this over the coming years and will be contacting CSUEB faculty with application details in the Fall. Information on Resident Directorships can be found at <http://www.gateway.calstate.edu/csuienet/faculty/index.shtml>.

Faculty Wang Scholarships to China and Taiwan

Four faculty scholarships of \$10,000 each are still offered each year for faculty wishing to teach or do research in Taiwan and China courtesy of the Wang Family. Information on this and other opportunities for faculty can be found at <http://www.gateway.calstate.edu/csuienet/faculty/index.shtml>. This scholarship program will run through 2012.

3. Performance of ACIP Representative Duties

This year, the spring meeting of the ACIP was held on our East Bay campus on April 20-21 and a wonderful job was done by Audrey Wade and Bob Brauer of the President's Office to make the meeting a success, from organizing hotel accommodation to getting us the appropriate space and resources on campus. Added to this, President Rees organized a magnificent buffet dinner and reception at her home to which a number of Senate members were invited. The ACIP was highly impressed with our campus, the welcome they received and the quality of the organization provided by CSUEB support staff. Also the weather was spectacular. I personally would like to thank all those involved for making me look so good in the eye's of my peer group! I would especially like to thank President Rees for her generosity and her support and interest in International Education and study abroad throughout her tenure. And I hope that Donna Wiley will receive equally strong support from our new President.

For 2005-06 I was the Chair of ACIP and not only ran the two ACIP meetings during the year but also participated in a number of conference calls concerning pressing issues and undertook a visit to our program site in Chile while on a Spring Break trip to South America. I consulted with students and faculty about some logistical and pedagogic issues associated with Study Abroad at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. For 2006-07 I will be the Ex-Officio Chair of the ACIP and attend both the Fall and Spring meetings with costs paid by the Office of International Programs (OIP) and not by our campus. The cost for Donna Wiley's participation will be split, CSU OIP paying for one and this campus the other.

4. ACIP Meeting Outcomes and Significant Issues

The ACIP dealt with a number of important issues in 2005-06 both at the plenary and the sub-committee level. The Program Review Committee (PRC) developed a format for evaluating programs in the Fall and performed a five-year review on three programs – Australia, Italy and Mexico – reporting back in the Spring. This committee recommended expanding the number of opportunities for students in Mexico and adding a Classics program to the curriculum in Italy, which would likely increase the number of students there by 20. With demand high for Australia, the OIP will be looking for ways to allow more of our students to study there in future years. In the Fall, the Academic and Fiscal Affairs Committee (AFAC) discussed a request from an ACIP member to reopen the suspended program in Israel and after discussion at sub-committee level and again at the plenary session it was decided not to advise OIP to do so at this time, at least until State Department Travel Advisory warnings are lifted. AFAC considered proposals to consider new program sites in Greece (from a CSUEB faculty member), Israel and Peru although decided not to follow through with these at this time, preferring instead to work on developing systematic criteria for the identification of new program countries based on student demand, financial, pedagogic and other relevant considerations. AFAC instructed the OIP to look into expanding exchange programs, as the cheapest options for the CSU, especially in the UK and Australia, and to expand the Spain program to include a new learn language program. In the Spring, this committee approved proposed changes to the program in Chile that will modify the number of course units that students must take to achieve an equivalent full-load at the CSU and instructed the OIP to look into expanding the number of exchange partners in Japan and the UK to allow more of our applicants to get places in these countries. An Ad-Hoc committee was recommended and created to advise on setting up a Learn Language Program in Spain. The Student Affairs Committee (SAC) did not make any significant changes to their operations and got on with the business of evaluating student applications, determining who should be accepted and reviewing appeals and late applications. The Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) evaluated

Resident Director Applications and Wang Family Scholarship applications by faculty and made recommendations to OIP concerning the appropriate recipients. ACIP representatives were asked by FAC to meet with their campus faculty and coordinators to discuss strategies for promoting Resident Director positions on campus and expanding the pool of interested and qualified applicants in the coming years.

At the plenary level, hot issues at the Fall meeting were the suspended Israel Program and the issue of changing the ACIP by-laws to allow the four Campus Coordinator Liaisons, one per committee, to have a vote. The Israel program was the subject of much debate having been brought to the table by the representative from Chico where there is a strong Jewish Studies Program that wished to send its students to Israel through the CSU Study Abroad. However, a motion to reopen the program was voted down 12:2 with 5 abstentions in large part because the majority of members were not satisfied that the safety situation had changed significantly since the suspension was put in place and the continued concern about the small size and high costs of the program. Considerable discussion was held concerning the issue of voting rights for Coordinator Liaisons to add to the 23 votes held by ACIP faculty representatives and 3 votes (soon to be increased to 4 votes assuming a request for a by-law change to the Trustees is successful this quarter) held by student representatives. Ultimately, the decision was made to Table this motion until the Spring meeting. In the Spring meeting, the plenary discussion was mostly about the issue of Coordinator Liaison voting rights and, based on guidance provided by the Chair, a decision was made to form an Ad-Hoc committee chaired by the Ex-Officio Chair to examine the pro's and con's of this suggestion and the best manner to present this to the State-wide Academic Senate and Board of Trustees should the ACIP decide to endorse this proposal. Also in the Spring the ACIP elected Kofi Akwabi-Ameyaw of Stanislaus to be the new Chair, electing Aki Hirota of Northridge as Chair of FAC and re-electing John Battenburg of San Louis Obispo, Catherine Turrill of Sacramento and Beth Hartung of Channel Islands to be Chairs of AFAC, SAC and the PRC respectively. The Fall meeting of 2006 will be at the Chancellor's Office and the Spring meeting of 2007 will be at CSU Channel Islands.

I am happy now to pass the baton to Donna Wiley who I am sure will do an excellent job as the ACIP Representative of the CSUEB from 2006-09 and for a further three years should the Academic Senate extend her appointment for the maximum six-year term. I trust that the staff and faculty of this fine institution will afford her lots of support and will help promote this fabulous opportunity to the widest possible portion of our student body. It is incredible how affordable this life-changing and enhancing experience really is – how else could you live and study in some of the finest universities in the world for \$13-\$18,000 per year all inclusive?