

DATE: May 6, 2009

TO: CSU East Bay Academic Senate

FROM: Donna Wiley, Associate Director
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SUBJECT: 2008-2009 Year End Report
CSUEB Representative to the CSU Academic Council on International
Programs

1. Student Applications to Study Abroad

Applications to Study Abroad from CSUEB increased this year from seven in 2007-2008 to 13 in 2008-2009, 12 to Northern Hemisphere programs and one to a Southern Hemisphere program. All 12 of our applicants to Northern Hemisphere programs were accepted! This was excellent news, as slots in some of the more competitive programs were reduced this year due to the budget situation. Our students will be participating in programs in China, Taiwan, Sweden, Japan, Spain (1 in Madrid and 4 in Grenada) and United Kingdom. The quality of this year's applicants was particularly strong. One of the applicant's faculty reference described him as one of her best students in over 25 years of teaching, and the personal stories of all of the applicants continue to be inspiring. A number of the applicants are first generation students of immigrant families. The interview for the student applying to the Southern Hemisphere program in Australia will be conducted later this week. The BCLAD program in Mexico has been permanently suspended, and this program had previously been very popular with CSUEB students. The Study Abroad coordinator position remains unfilled. While Kelly Moran does an excellent job, she is spread extremely thin with her other responsibilities as Director of the Center for International Education, so she does not have as much time to devote to promoting study abroad opportunities as a full time coordinator would have.

For the 2008-2009 Fall cycle there were a total of 748 applications submitted for the northern hemisphere programs. 628 were accepted to their first choice program, 24 were selected for their second choice program, 19 were waitlisted and 77 were denied. Data regarding number of participants by each of the CSU campuses is available if anyone would like to have it. Data for the southern hemisphere programs is not yet complete as applications are in progress.

At the ACIP Spring meeting, which was held at the CSU Chancellors Office, we were provided with a budget projection for 2009/10 that indicated that the average cost per student for Study Abroad (i.e. the cost to the State of California) is expected to be around \$9,204, ranging from a low of \$2,236.00 per student for the most inexpensive program Canada to a high of \$12,950 per student for the most expensive program (Japan). The

total cost of the program is \$5.83 million with the majority of financing coming from the General Fund and student fees. More information about the budget and financing situation for IP will be presented later in this report.

2. Faculty Participation and Opportunities in Study Abroad

Faculty Interviewers

The response to the call for volunteers to participate in student interview committees was very strong, with more faculty volunteering than could be utilized, primarily because of conflicts between their schedules and student availabilities. Twenty-two faculty participated in the twelve interviews, including several junior faculty, and a number of both junior and senior faculty one who participated for the first time. They all were excited to learn about the program and promised to promote it in their classes, and seemed impressed and proud of the students they interviewed.

Resident Directors

There were no CSUEB applicants for Resident Director positions for the 2009-2010 academic year. Information on Resident Directorships can be found at <http://www.gateway.calstate.edu/csuienet/faculty/index.shtml>

3. Performance of ACIP Representative Duties

In addition to recruiting faculty to participate in selection committees, organizing the interviews, participating on each interview committee, and completing the student evaluations, I also participated in the two ACIP meetings, the fall and spring meetings, both of which were held in Long Beach this year. I continued to serve on the Program Review Committee, and the committee reviewed the programs in Germany, Korea and Japan. Issues reviewed by this committee are discussed in the section below.

4. Additional IP items.

As in last year's report, the budget for the IP program continued to be the most pressing topic of discussion, and the situation continues to be dire. The Study Abroad program is being affected the same as the campuses in the current state budget crisis. Therefore, enrollments in some of the most expensive programs (i.e., programs with relatively low fixed costs and high per student costs) continue to be reduced for the 2009-2010 AY. The program is adopting a strategy of reducing the number of students in programs where we pay fees to the host institution, and is seeking to increase opportunities for students at universities where we have one-to-one exchange relationships. The number of exchanges as a percentage of students in the program has increased to almost half of the exchanges over the last 10 years. The success of this strategy will depend on campus' accepting the exchange students from the foreign partners. As reported last year, a student IP fee was

implement that is analogous to the campus fee that students pay to attend their home campus, and this fee has made it possible for IP to balance its budget. However, it is clear that IP will continue to have to seek ways to reduce costs while still providing opportunities for students, especially considering the current state of the California budget and the continuing devaluation of the dollar. Efforts will focus on restructuring existing programs, with a focus on expanding programs that involve direct exchanges and reducing programs that require IP to pay full-cost tuition. The IP Director emphasize that even with increased student fees, the CSU International Programs remain one of the most affordable opportunities for students to have an academic year-long study abroad experience.

The IP is proud of the diversity of students who participate, and recently supported the production of the “Breaking Barriers” DVD, which promotes the participation of underrepresented students. Efforts seem to be successful, as the rate of participation of underrepresented minorities has increased from 34.5% in 2003-2004 to 48.5% in 2007-2008.