

Study Abroad Committee  
Monday, March 22, 2004  
4:00  
Psychology Building, Room 150

Present: Yves Berthelot (ME), Karen Boyd (Student Affairs; Ex-officio), Dana Hartley (EAS), Jo McIver (Registrar), Lakshmi Sankar (AE), Howard Rollins (OIE), Tom Sanders (MSE; Co-Chair), John Tone (HTS; Co-Chair), Amy Henry (OIE; non-voting staff to committee).

Absent: Sri Narasiham (MGT), Bob McMath (Academic Affairs)

Amy Henry began the meeting by giving the committee an update on summer and fall programs and participation. Two programs were canceled because they were undersubscribed: Field Work in Animal Behavior and South Pacific Islands. Also, one program, Aerospace Engineering in Russia, was canceled due to difficulty in making requisite program arrangements. All other programs are at or above capacity, with some programs taking additional students to try to mitigate the negative impact of the weak dollar. Compared to the same time last year, even before programs were canceled due to SARS, participation is up.

Howard Rollins outlined plans to expand international programs available to GT students, particularly semester-long programs that would not follow exactly the model of summer faculty-led programs. Howard asked if the committee sees itself as the appropriate body for advising the Office of International Education about these new programs and for approving them as they are developed. The committee's general feeling was that it has a specific mandate and that while the plans sound interesting, the committee has ample work and thinks another body, perhaps an advisory committee to be created, would be more appropriate for these matters.

Committee members had received by e-mail a copy of the plan for the international designation degree that Howard, Jack Lohman, and others drafted. This plan outlines a program of regular study towards a Bachelor's degree that includes some study and/or work abroad. The degree would also require either proficiency in a second language or a series of internationally-focused classes. Some committee members said they think the students who follow the language option should have this recognized on the degree. In other words, students who opt to develop proficiency in a second language should not receive exactly the same degree as those who follow the path of only internationally-focused course work. The overall view of the plan was positive and the committee expressed general support for the international designation degree. The committee suggested that OIE work with the Undergraduate Coordinators in the academic units to identify programs of particular academic interest for their students and to pre-approve credits in those programs for transfer back to GT to help with recruiting and to alleviate the burden on Undergraduate Coordinators to meet with each student individually.

Meeting adjourned.