

Minutes:

ISCAPC Meeting of March 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 2:00.

Present: Brian Blouet (School of Education)

Bruce Campbell

Tun-Jen ("T.J.") Cheng

Laurie Koloski

Gail McEachron

John Oakley

Mary Voigt (Chair)

Guru Ghosh (ex officio)

Ed- Pratt (ex officio)

Margaret Theobald

Laura Whittle [whas she there?]

I. the Committee Discussed an earlier proposal to establish a semester-long study abroad program in La Plata, Argentina.

After extended discussion, during which there was a general feeling that the Committee needed more detailed information on the proposed program (housing, courses to be offered, etc.) the Committee passed the following motion unanimously:

"We move that we tell the sponsors of the La Plata program that the Committee has examined their proposal and the subsequent correspondence and feels that the program is very strong and final Committee approval very likely, but that we do not wish to make any decision without a formal site visit."

Guru Ghosh stated that one reason that this information had not already been gathered, was that the proposed La Plata Program had originated in a Borgenicht initiative. He further stated that there would be no difficulty in gathering the missing information, since Prof. Tandeciariz, one of the initiators of the proposed program, would be visiting La Plata shortly, and that Ann-Marie Stock, the Acting Dean of the Reves Center, would be making a visit in the near future.

II. In discussion in the wake of the vote on the La Plata motion, the chair raised the issue of "precedent" again, and there was general agreement with Ed Pratt's statement that despite the narrowly academic brief of the Committee, we were obligated to look at each study abroad program in its entirety before we could come to a final decision on its academic merits. Guru Ghosh agreed to bring to the next meeting the site visit template currently used by the Reves Center, and promised to make a presentation on the site visit procedure.

III. The Chair stated that, since we did not have a copy of the minutes of last year's meeting in which the Committee drew up its guidelines for study abroad program proposals by faculty, she

would distribute a copy of these guidelines once again, so that the Committee could formally approve them once again, include them in the minutes, and post them to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences website.

IV. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussion of the proposed changes in the interdisciplinary European Studies Concentration and Minor.

The proposed changes were introduced by Laurie Koloski, the current CFAC chair of European Studies.[See attached proposal with appendicies]§

Questions were raised about the inclusion of Arabic and Hebrew as language options, the presence of courses on ancient, mediaeval and early-modern topics (as opposed to focusing on modern Europe exclusively), the relative paucity of social science courses (particularly in Government and Economics) on the list of required courses, and the advisability of simply posting the list of acceptable elective courses to the Reves Center web site, rather than writing them down in the catalog.

Prof. Koloski stated that the ES CFAC had unanimously agreed to include Arabic and had widely recommended Hebrew (with no opposing voices on the ES CFAC), and gave the reasons.

Similarly, she stated that the ES CFAC had specifically included pre-modern courses, arguing that it would be difficult to justify excluding them, since the idea and reality of “Europe” was not a modern invention.

The paucity of social science requirements was conceded as a real problem, but Prof. Koloski demonstrated that the problem was due to a serious lack of offerings on Europe in both the Government and Economics departments. This was compounded by the fact that some of the courses which are offered are either taught so irregularly as to make them difficult to take, or required so many prerequisites that students could not realistically be expected to take them unless they had a dual concentration in Government or Economics. the ES CFAC had discussed the problem at length, and agreed that it was impossible to have an ES concentration without required courses in the social sciences, but also felt obligated to offer a concentration which could realistically be completed by an average student.

Prof. Koloski and the Committee agreed that in addition to positing the list of acceptable elective courses on the web page devoted to ES, some other means of making them known could also be found.

Campbell moved to accept the ES revision. The motion was seconded by Voight, and passed with one abstention.

The meeting adjourned at 15:05.

respectfully submitted: Bruce Campbell