

## Minutes ISCAPC meeting Oct. 27, 2005

Present at meeting: TJ Cheng, John Eisele, Tom Heacox, Laurie Koloski, Brian Blouet, Allison Biggs, Cosmo Fujiyama, Scott Kuhagen, Sue Peterson, Marlene Brummer (Reves).

1. Presentation by Prof. Fred Smith, Anthropology Dept., of Barbados Historical Archeology and Ethnohistory Field School (ANTH 625, 6 credits)
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In his presentation, which followed his detailed application, Prof. Smith showed slides of the excavation site, student housing, labs, etc. He emphasized as well the program's engagement with the local community and local scholars.

Questions for Prof Smith from committee:

- the high course number was questioned, and Prof. Smith responded that the exact course number is not yet set, but may be different (225) for undergrads. He expects 10 undergrads and 2 grad students in the programs. Regarding the credits, he noted that there are 2 other field schools in the Anthropology Dept. each of which has 6 credits.
- He noted that he works closely with Prof. Carl Watson of the Univ. of the West Indies, although it is an informal relationship.
- Most of the students' time is spent in digging and artifact analysis, about 5 hours per day, but this could vary depending on weather conditions.
- the question of a "field school" being an atypical academic course was raised, and Prof. Smith replied that it is a methodology course, teaching students techniques of excavation and analysis, but it also included field trips which taught students details of the local history and culture.
- The questions of "sustainability" was raised—i.e. can someone else do it, and he noted that he has run a similar program elsewhere, and is actually replacing a professor who ran the program before.
- the question of why it is now being run as a study abroad program when it is already existing program was addressed by noting the advantages of the administrative structure of Reves, as well as the exposure it will get as an official study abroad program.
- the possibility of adding another faculty member or other courses was raised, but Prof Smith noted the limited housing at Bellaire, and downplayed the expansion of the program in that direction.
- He noted that the program takes place in collaboration with the Antiquities office, but it is under his auspices, and that the sites are varied, due to the nature of "salvage" archeology.
- Committee members noted that students who apply for the program should be informed that it involves hard physical labor.
- Regarding how students' work is evaluated: Prof. Smith noted that students are required to keep a daily journal and write a final report.
- Regarding finances: it is paid for by student fees, and is inexpensive relative to other programs.

## Discussion:

- The committee noted that it is a strong, well established program, and it will happen anyway, and it is better to have it under the auspices of Reves.
- It was noted that it is not like other study abroad programs, since it is tied to a specific department and even a specific faculty member; it was therefore suggested that it be termed the “Anthropology Field School in Barbados” rather than the “Barbados Summer Program.” Despite this, some committee members still held out the possibility for future expansion of the program with a second track if the opportunity presented itself.
- A question was raised about the academic content—“what do they get for 6 credits?”—and it was noted that it was teaching students a research tool to study Anthropology (how to map a site, begin excavation, etc.) and was perhaps something more akin to an internship than a typical academic course. It was also noted that the program includes informal lectures in the evening.
- It was noted that the committee did not ask more details about the nature of the field work done at the Barbados archives.
- The committee decided that it needs a syllabus, at least to ascertain more about the specific content of the course (what the students learn) as well as about the evaluation procedures for student work before coming to a decision.

## 2. Approval of minutes:

- Brian Blouet had a question on Guru’s statement regarding program assessments that both the committee and the IS Dean should review the evaluations. He thought it odd that a committee would review this confidential information. In response it was noted that evaluations are reviewed by departmental committees all the time, and even some with students on it, and that they are used not to “target” individuals or even courses, but to review program as a whole. Brian’s concerns with the issues of confidentiality in program evaluations had to do with the fact that the ISCAPC is a college wide committee and not a smaller departmental committee. The committee duly noted his concern, and the chair made the point that confidentiality also extended to applications for program directors.
- Dean Peterson noted that the minutes should show that she is on the subcommittee for evaluations.
- With above amendments, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## 3. Program director applications:

- a. Cadiz: Carla Buck’s application was accepted and approved.
- b. Florence: A number of misgivings were expressed about this application. It was noted that there was no syllabus, and that the readings proposed were odd given the setting. It was noted that the committee approved the director last year with the proviso that the committee receive a good report on it. It was noted that the Italian language courses in the program are given through Lingua Viva. The committee decided to defer its decision in order to get more information about the syllabus. It was noted that the applicant was a

good director, but the committee asked for further clarification on the course to be taught there.

- c. Siracusa: John Donahue's application was accepted and approved.
- d. Morelia: Jennifer Bickham-Mendez's application was accepted and approved.
- e. Montpellier: Michael Leruth's application was accepted and approved.
- f. Beijing: Yanfang Tang's application was accepted and approved.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.
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Respectfully submitted,

John Eisele