

# OVERSEAS STUDIES PANEL

## MINUTES

*December 12, 2005*

*10:00 – 12:00 pm*

*TSC 203*

### I. MINUTES OF 11/2/05 OSP MEETING

- **APPROVED.**

### NEW SEMESTER/YEAR PROGRAMS

#### II. VITERBI SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Req. by Yannis Yortsos

Eff. Fall 2006

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology** [*Semester program, 15-18 units*]

- **APPROVED.** The panel noted that this is the first non-summer overseas program for the School of Engineering. The university is highly regarded. As a new program, this is approved for three years.

### FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF A SEMESTER/YEAR PROGRAM AND REVISION

#### III. LAS: OFFICE OF OVERSEAS STUDIES and EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Req. by Peter Hilton and Audrey Li

Eff. Fall 2006

**CIEE program at National Chenchi University (NCCU) in Taipei, Taiwan** [*15-18 units per semester*]

Revise course requirements to require students to take an additional course in Chinese language; change units per semester to 16.

- **APPROVED.** This program was originally set up to be a hybrid program for language acquisition and for the cultural/international experience. In the past students would take two courses from NCCU faculty, and the problems that resulted were that course and schedule changes would happen at the last minute, and the student experience with faculty was spotty. The program revision is to change the focus to language acquisition. Audrey Li visited the program recently. The program revisions are proposed by CIEE, on whose board Audrey Li serves. The CIEE program evaluation noted especially problems with an Economics course. About 4-5 students participate in this program per year, of varied backgrounds (not only of Asian descent). Though some changes have been made there remain some problems, including blocked emergency exits in the female dormitories.

## REOPENING OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

### IV. LAS: OVERSEAS STUDIES OFFICE

Req. by Peter Hilton

Reopen 4 suspended study abroad programs:

Eff. Fall 2006

**SIT Coastal Studies in Mombasa, Kenya; School for Field Studies in Kilimanjaro National Park, Kenya; Tel Aviv University, Israel; Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel**

- **DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR REVIEW IN ONE YEAR:** The panel notes that the provost directed that these programs would be reopened, and this notification was provided as an information item that the university's stand on sending students to countries under U.S. Department of State Travel Warning has changed, and that students will now be allowed to apply to participate. Students will be advised about the dangers inherent in traveling to these countries when they apply and go through orientation. The committee recommends that the Overseas Studies Office counsel students and document the consultation steps that have taken place, on a student-by-student basis. It is possible that the academic programs at the institutions in these countries may have changed since USC last sent students—we lack recent student feedback. The panel requests an academic review of these programs during the next academic year, whether or not students actually attend. Peter Hilton explained that it is difficult to get information about the Israel programs from those running the programs. A review of the Africa programs can include student feedback in spring '07 if students go in fall '06, but the Israel programs are only available for spring or the full year. One change instituted by the OSO is that students attending the Israel programs must have had at least two semesters of Hebrew, as is true for all other College programs in locations where the language is taught at USC. This was not previously true for Israel.

**Members present**

Steve Bucher  
Roberto Diaz  
Frances M. Fitzgerald (*support staff*)  
Stacy Geck  
Peter Hilton, OSO  
Thomas Hollihan (*chair*)  
Erin Quinn  
Edwenna Werner (*for Dean Servis*)

**Members absent**

Yehuda Ben-Zion  
Eugene Bickers (*ex-officio*)  
Elizabeth Garrett *ex-officio*)  
David Glasgow (*ex-officio*)  
Kenneth Servis (*ex-officio*)  
Kristen Taylor (*student*)  
Peter Starr (*ex-officio*)

**Guests**

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Thomas Hollihan, Chair  
Overseas Studies Panel

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Date