

OVERSEAS STUDIES PANEL

MINUTES

November 21, 2005

1:00 – 3:00 pm

TSC 206

I. MINUTES OF 10/24/05 OSP MEETING

- **APPROVED.**

NEW SEMESTER/YEAR PROGRAMS

II. ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION

Req. by Larry Gross

A. Semester in Buenos Aires, Argentina: Universidad de San Andres (UdeSA) [12-16 unit program, Fall]

- **APPROVED for 3 years, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department. This program was developed to provide Annenberg students a Latin American overseas studies option. The support services, including student services, at this private institution are strong. At least five semesters of Spanish language (or the equivalent) will be required of applicants wanting to take part. A 5-week Spanish language intensive in advance of the beginning of the program is an option, but is not officially part of the program. Annenberg will ask the Spanish department to evaluate students whose language skills might be on the borderline. The College has indicated its support of this program. The catalogue language for this program was revised.

B. Semester in Australia: University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia [12-16 unit program, Spring]

- **APPROVED for 3 years, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department. Jane Cody and Peter Starr have expressed interest in working with Annenberg on this program. Annenberg will be in close contact with the Overseas Studies Office of the College to be sure student advisement is covered. It is expected that this program will be very popular, and will probably split into two separate ones, one run by Annenberg, the other by the College. Edwenna Werner noticed that the catalogue copy provided for the other two programs proposed by Annenberg this month indicated the majors they will be open to, and that the catalogue copy for this program does not. Tom Hollihan responded that the School purposely left that out of the catalogue copy.

C. Semester in New Zealand: University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand [12-16 unit program, Spring]

- **APPROVED for 3 years, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department.

REVIEW AND RENEWAL OF SEMESTER/YEAR PROGRAM

III. LAS/OVERSEAS STUDIES OFFICE

Req. by Jane Cody

Queen Mary, University of London [*13 units Fall; 15 units Spring*]

- **APPROVED for 5 years.** The director's report noted two problems: more students than is usual for overseas programs failed courses, and some courses were considered poor academically. The Overseas Studies Office (OSO), in response, is now advising students away from the weaker departments. In addition, over the years, the OSO has noticed that some students participate in this program because of the location and not for what the University of London has to offer. In the future, they will require that students take at least some courses that will count toward their major or minor. Panel members noticed that the grades were very low, despite the 3.0 requirement to be admitted to go. One explanation for this is that there is little or no grade inflation in the UK. Students who didn't sit for finals failed, even though they knew they would fail the course if they didn't take the final exams. Some panel members thought that students might maintain a better record if they knew they'd get a letter grade at USC. Peter Hilton reported that CIEE and IES did a study comparing the performance of students whose home institutions translated the overseas grade into a letter grade vs CR/NC (as at USC). Although there was some tendency for students who earned letter grades to do better, the effect was not as large as had been expected. Peter reported that some institutions report the letter grade earned abroad on the home transcript but do not include it in the GPA.

NEW INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAM

IV. ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION

Req. by Larry Gross

Summer Program in Communications Erfurt (SPICE), University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany [*6 unit program*]

- **APPROVED for one year with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department. This newly-developed program has a unique structure. It consists of a consortium of four universities, USC, UC Santa Barbara, Washington State University and the University of Erfurt, that will participate in team-teaching courses with faculty at the University of Erfurt each summer. Stanford may participate in the future. The Annenberg School wants to send up to six students this year. The University of Erfurt is located near Dresden, in the former East Germany. The courses are to be offered in two blocks, with unstructured time in the middle. In summer 2006, the two courses taught in the first block will each be taught by one faculty member from USC and one from Erfurt. The four weeks of courses are followed by an unstructured period and then a structured trip to Berlin, followed by a second block of two courses. Students will take two courses (presumably both in the first block in summer 2006) and earn three units per course. There may be a different focus of the courses each year. USC faculty may or may not attend every year. The transcript will be provided by Erfurt. This is the only ISP besides Cambridge where the courses offered are not USC courses.

REVIEW AND RENEWAL OF INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS

V. ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION Req. by Geoffrey Cowan

- **DISCUSSION.** Michael Parks, director of the School of Journalism, attended the meeting in order to address concerns about problems in Hong Kong and Capetown identified in the materials submitted by Journalism. The problems reported by students in Hong Kong and Capetown, which at both sites were due to health problems of the faculty member in charge, were taken very seriously, and the School has made changes for 2006. In addition, Michael Parks will visit all sites early in the summer and will meet with students to be sure there are no unreported problems. He will also oversee the spring preparatory course, and most of the faculty who will oversee the summer program will participate in teaching the spring course. These overseas programs are very popular—40% of their students go overseas. They were originally approved in 2000, and differentiate USC's journalism programs from those at other institutions. Each consists of a spring preparatory course, followed on-site by a seminar (JOUR 532 for PR students or 542 for print journalists) and a structured internship (JOUR 543). Up until now 532 and 542 met together in Hong Kong and Capetown, although separate faculty and courses were offered in London, due to the number of students attending. The school will differentiate 542 and 532 more in the future so that PR students have material specifically relevant to them. Michael Parks stated that clearly defined syllabi and instructions will be provided to the students at orientation.

A. **Journalism in London** (for Print and Broadcast Journalism studies) [6 units]

- **APPROVED, for three years, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department. No big problems were identified with this program and the Public Relations program listed immediately below. Larry Pryor and Jerry Swerling will direct these two programs. Accent will run the programs. Students will go on visits to Brussels and Belfast.

B. **Journalism in London** (for Public Relations students) [6 units]

- **APPROVED, for three years, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department.

C. **Journalism in Hong Kong** [6 units]

- **APPROVED, for three years, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department. Among the student complaints were that the internships were inadequately supervised, the relationship between instructor and students was bad, and students found the spring course devoid of intellectual content. The instructor broke his foot but reported to campus that there were no problems. Because of these complaints, the instructor has been replaced, and the new instructor, Lynn Boyd, will teach the courses in Hong Kong and also co-teach the spring course.. The Annenberg school has developed a better relationship with Hong Kong University. They are confident that next year's program is better planned and that the necessary frequent guidance will be given to students. On the positive side, the Hong Kong journalism program is very strong, instructors are American or American-trained. Students will take a 10-day trip to China led by a highly qualified local instructors. Connie Horak just returned from a visit to start developing internships.

D. **Journalism in South Africa** [6 units]

- **APPROVED, with one abstention** from a faculty member from the department. The instructor who had been very effective in the past was ill in summer 2005. A new instructor has been hired who is highly qualified, with both print journalism and PR experience. She will be visiting campus for two weeks this spring to meet students. A handbook for students is being produced containing a syllabus, information about the location, local codes of ethics, and safety issues. They are looking for new housing. In this program, students sometimes end up teaching their mentors at their internship, as the students are trained in American ways of reporting which may be unfamiliar to the journalists in South Africa..

- **FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 10/23/02 OSP MEETING: APPROVED, with 2 abstentions, for three years, contingent on** the department providing separate syllabi for JOUR 532, 542 and 543. Connie Horak, director of international programs for the Journalism school, attended the meeting to answer any questions the panel might have. The panel expressed concerns regarding the fact that only one syllabus was provided for these two courses, with one grade breakdown. The internships of differing lengths, while earning the same number of units, were explained by the trips taken by the students in the programs of longer duration. However, it was stated that the internship in Africa will be increased to five weeks. Some companies require longer internships (e.g. 8 weeks), but students receive additional funding in these cases. The panel noted that some student evaluations were quite negative, due in part to disappointment with internship placements. Providing quality internships is a continuing challenge, and students need to have realistic expectations about both internships and living conditions abroad. Problems with housing and the theft of personal items in London should be improved next year with more advanced attention to housing. Journalism plans to institute a selection process, which was nonexistent for the Summer 2002 program. A faculty member will be present during the entire program in each location next year (as was not the case this year in Hong Kong). It was noted that all students in London received an A- for JOUR 542.

There was discussion about whether to approve the Architecture and Journalism programs for one year or three. Reasons advanced by a panel member for approving the programs for three years, even though there had been some problems last year and some changes were proposed for next year, were: (1) If a program is approved for three years, the department must still provide all the same materials for review by the panel chair; if the chair finds a problem, s/he can send the program to the panel; (2) It is very time-consuming for the panel to receive so many materials to review, and this may decrease faculty willingness to serve on curriculum panels; (3) We should trust our own faculty when they run these programs abroad, and not require a more frequent review (i.e. annual) than we do for programs run by other institutions or at other universities.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

REVIEW/RENEW INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS – FOR PANEL CHAIR ONLY

VI. LAS: SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE Req. by Roberto Ignacio Díaz

A. **Buenos Aires, Argentina** [8 units]

B. **Madrid, Spain** [8 units]

- Both **APPROVED** for 2006 by the panel chair.

Members present

Steve Bucher
Roberto Diaz
Frances M. Fitzgerald (*support staff*)
Stacy Geck
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*)
Peter Starr (*ex-officio*)
Kristen Taylor (*student*)

Guests

Peter Hilton, OSO
Michael Parks, Annenberg School

Thomas Hollihan, Chair
Overseas Studies Panel

Date