

# USG Study Abroad Committee Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2003 Macon State College Building K, Room 104

Members and visitors present:

Jim Anderson, Chair - Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Patrick Brennon - Macon State University  
Dan Paracka - Kennesaw State University  
Belen Calingacion - Kennesaw State University (visiting Fulbright Scholar from the Philippines)  
David Adewuyi - Albany State University  
Baogon Guo - Dalton State College  
Beth Biron - Dalton State College  
Lindsey Parsons - The University of Georgia  
Alberta Johnson- Floyd College  
Dudley Salley - Floyd College  
Amy Henry - Georgia Institute of Technology  
Martha Hughes - East Georgia College  
David Starling - Valdosta State University  
Leigh Walker - Georgia State University  
Lisa Mallory - Atlanta Metropolitan College  
Bill Schaniel - State University of West Georgia  
Shirley Oakley - Coastal Georgia Community College  
Dwight Call - Georgia College & State University  
Steve Galatas -Georgia Southwestern State University  
Patty Davis - Darton College  
Mid Brock - Darton College  
Anne Michaels - Darton College  
Patricia Ryan-Okegunone - Albany State University  
Sue Sugarman, USG Office of International Education  
Susan Leisure, USG Office of International Education

## I. Introduction and Campus Updates

Members introduced themselves and gave a campus update on programs and study abroad performance over the summer. UGA reported an increase in study abroad participation, while GA Tech reported a decrease because of SARS and the subsequent cancellation of 4 programs to Asia. Armstrong had a 30% increase in study abroad enrollment as a result of several new programs. Kennesaw announced a new study abroad program to Thailand and introduced the visiting Fulbright scholar from The Philippines. Albany State reported a new \$500 Scholarship for Study Abroad that is now available. Valdosta's study abroad participation numbers were nearly the same this year as last year, and VSU has added a new nursing

program in Russia for this coming year. Dalton State has two new “embedded” study abroad programs to Mexico- one in social work and one in Spanish. Georgia State was successful in introducing a new international fee assessed on all students. This fee helps cover both international student services (SEVIS-related expenses) as well as study abroad (the addition of a third advisor and approximately 80,000 in new study abroad scholarships). GSU hopes for a large increase in study abroad participation with the advent of this new scholarship program. Atlanta Metro is offering a new short-term study abroad program to Costa Rica this spring. East Georgia was happy to report that the college's Foundation has earmarked \$10,000 for study abroad scholarships. West Georgia is spearheading efforts at creating a Canadian Studies Certificate for the University System and hopes to have a study abroad program to Canada established by this year. Coastal Georgia was pleased to report a 600% increase in study abroad participation this past year (from 1 to 6 students), and Georgia Southwestern announced the creation of two new study abroad programs as well as a new international office on campus that will serve as the clearinghouse for both study abroad and international matters. Phil Szmedra is the new director of this office. Patty David reported that the Darton Global Center committee, which oversees international activities, is helping with the creation of a new study abroad program to Cuba this summer. Floyd College has one short-term program this summer and several faculty who will be teaching on European Council programs this summer. Most campuses offer several new study abroad programs for 2003-2004.

## **II. USG Update**

The Board of Regents has approved a FY05 budget recommendation of \$ 1 million to strengthen and expand study abroad programs for University System students. If this budget initiative is approved, the new funds will be used for program support, study abroad programming, scholarships, and other study abroad initiatives.

ISEP, the International Student Exchange Program, has more than 100 exchange sites worldwide. In addition to exchange programs in more than 30 countries, ISEP offers 4-6 week summer study abroad programs in locations where there are no USG programs - Korea, Thailand, Malta, Finland, The Netherlands, and Chile as well as France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. The USG's goal is to send 25 exchange students abroad through ISEP in 2003-2004. Any academically qualified student in sophomore standing or higher enrolled in a degree program in the USG may participate in an ISEP exchange. While an ISEP exchange program may not be for everyone, students with prior successful study abroad experience, international exposure, or an adventurous, independent nature are ideal candidates for an ISEP exchange program. Though an ISEP program costs virtually the same as studying on the home campus (and HOPE and financial aid apply to ISEP programs), the USG is providing \$500 grants to help defray the cost of an ISEP exchange program. The initial ISEP program cost of \$5350 for spring exchange programs is reduced to \$4850 with the USG ISEP grant. ISEP also offers program scholarships for 2004 exchanges in Thailand, Korea and The Netherlands.

Additional scholarship information was distributed for the Gilman, the Freeman-Asia, and the Bridging Scholarships for Study in Japan. The 2003-2004 Regents Scholarship information was also distributed along with information on STARS (Students Abroad with Regents' Support), the new Board of Regents

funding program for study abroad opportunities. The three new STARS funding programs (work and study stipends, travel grants, and program assistantships) were discussed, and there was committee consensus that the deadline for summer programs beginning after July 1 (and thus in the next fiscal year) was problematic and made recruitment for assistantships difficult. The committee suggested that the USG OIE consider altering the deadline for assistantships for study abroad programs beginning in July and also asked for clarification on the work and study stipends. Some campuses were awarding the matching payment at the conclusion of the work assignment, and others were using the funds to cover the regular work payments.

### III. Study Abroad Committee charge

Chair Jim Anderson presented the 2003-2004 agenda for the committee and stressed the need to work together toward common goals and avoid “reinventing the wheel” on each USG campus

The committee will focus on the following charges for 2003-2004:

- A. Build an active membership from all 34 institutions.
- B. Encourage each institution to participate in the STARS funding programs.
- C. Identify priority locations/disciplines for new USG study abroad programs.
- D. Design/administer a competitive process for development of collaborative study abroad programs.
- E. Assist with identifying financial guidelines and procedures for financial management of study abroad programs.
- F. Assist the USG in designing and conducting targeted workshops on specific needs and areas related to study abroad.
- G. Promote the benefits of extended overseas study through ISEP.
- H. Help identify and recruit exemplary programs to apply for the USG Best Practices Awards for Degree Programs with an Integrated Study Abroad Component.

Some suggestions from the committee on directive A were:

- creation of more joint programs
- smaller institutions tagging on to an existing program to share resources
- incentives for small programs
- meeting in various locations around the state in lieu of Macon and conducting a study abroad workshop in conjunction with the meeting
- the “buddy system” – bigger institutions would “adopt” smaller schools
- buy release time for faculty so they could actively recruit
- use the list-serve more (an exchange of ideas, posing a question of the week, etc)
- make better use of international faculty on campus as a resource
- solve the registration issue

Directives C and D called for the creation of a subcommittee to identify underserved areas and underserved disciplines in study abroad programming. The USG anticipates approximately \$40,000

available to develop a grant competition for the creation of collaborative programs. The criteria and application guidelines/process will need to be in place by the end of the semester. Beth Biron, Dwight Call, and Dan Paracka agreed to serve on this subcommittee to identify underserved areas and disciplines. In attempting to identify existing USG program locations and disciplines, an awareness of all USG study abroad programs is crucial, so programs not listed in the catalog must be approved by the home campus, the USG, and then included in the on-line version of the 2003-2004 University System of Georgia Study Abroad Catalog. (Failure to secure approval for a campus study abroad program creates liability issues.) This subcommittee will meet on Friday September 19 at 2:30 pm immediately following the SCIE meeting. Recommendations from the subcommittee will be posted on the list-serve for committee approval. Amy Henry, Leigh Walker, and Shirley Oakley agreed to come up with grant guidelines and will aim to put out an RFP by October so that campuses have time to submit an application by April 1.

Directive E is on hold as the financial office in the BOR has plans to establish a task force to examine financial procedures and practices for study abroad programs. The committee wondered what kinds of procedures and practices might likely be examined. Jim Anderson offered the example that his campus business office had issued him a study abroad credit card in his name, and this has made budget management more manageable. The practice of advance currency purchasing was discussed as a standard business practice for some programs, and the task force will likely examine this practice, along with budget management and procedures.

Jim suggested that the next study abroad meeting be held in a location other than Macon and combined with a study abroad workshop so that other colleagues not normally in attendance at the study abroad committee meetings can attend the meeting and benefit from a targeted workshop. More details will be available on the list-serve.

#### **IV. Study Abroad Insurance**

CISI, the provider of study abroad insurance for student and faculty/staff study abroad participants, has been renewed for the same rates as 2002-2003. A 14-day policy is \$18; a month-long policy is \$30, and a 6-week policy is \$46. Many USG campuses used CISI for this summer's programs and reported a high level of satisfaction and customer service with the policy. Policy information, as well as contact information for CISI, can be accessed on the USG OIE Web site: [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/insurance.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/insurance.phtml)

Supplemental insurance for faculty/staff traveling overseas independent of a study abroad program can also purchase secondary insurance through HTH Worldwide to cover evacuation and repatriation while abroad. This policy costs \$6.95 a month, and details can be found on the USG OIE Web site:

[http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/insurance.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/insurance.phtml)

#### **V. Additional Issues**

Bill Schaniel discussed the new Canadian Studies Certificate and related programming. West Georgia has received a Global Partnership grant to create both the certificate and a European Council-style study

abroad program to Canada. Additional funds are also available for course development and a Canadian studies conference. For more information, please contact Bill ([wschanie@westga.edu](mailto:wschanie@westga.edu)).

#### VI. **Announcements**

Kennesaw's study abroad fair will be held on Thursday, October 23rd at Kennesaw. Anyone interested in attending should send an email to Dan Paracka ([dparacka@kennesaw.edu](mailto:dparacka@kennesaw.edu)).

The committee was reminded that the campus contact for international issues is the SCIE (System Council on International Education) Representative, so this individual should be forwarding along information relevant to study abroad and related opportunities. Jim reminded committee members to check with their campus SCIE rep about receiving study abroad-related information.

#### VII. **Adjournment**

Jim reminded the committee that the next meeting will be in an alternate location and coupled with a study abroad workshop - the time, place, and topic are TBA. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

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270 Washington Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30334

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