

International and Domestic Off-Campus Studies Committee Minutes

April 9, 2003

Members present: Wendy Allen, Kim Kandl, Pat Quade, Kathryn Ananda-Owens, Maggie Broner and Roseanne Galegher

Visitors: Kathy Tuma, Bruce Dalgaard, Brad Kmoch and Rick Fairbanks.

Old Business:

1. Minutes from the March 19, 2003 meeting were approved with no changes.

New Business:

1. Pat Quade reported on the decision to cancel the Term in the Middle East for the 2003-04 year due to low enrollment. Students who had been accepted for the program are being offered counseling and assistance as they examine options in other programs. The fact that St. Olaf did not offer the Term in the Middle East this year and that we will not do so next year raises concerns about the status of relationships between S. Olaf and host universities in Istanbul, Marrakech and Cairo. Quade reported that he and President Thomforde will visit these institutions next Fall in order to affirm St. Olaf's commitment to these institutional exchanges.

Quade reported that applications for the field supervisors positions for Global, Term in the Middle East and Term in Asia are on track and that we hope to select faculty leaders for all programs for the next three years.

The number of students enrolled in full-year or semester-long off-campus programs for the 2003-04 year is 250. The interim open house held Tuesday, April 8, was an enormous success.

The SARS epidemic that is currently threatening different Asian countries has not affected any St. Olaf students. We continue to monitor Shanghai where two St. Olaf graduates are currently serving as China fellows. If SARS continues to be a problem, there is potential concern for the Term in Asia, Global and In-Service Teachers in Hong Kong. International & Off-Campus Studies will keep abreast of the situation with the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control and other healthcare agencies.

2. Kathy Tuma, Rick Fairbanks, and Brad Kmoch presented an update from the Study/service Task Force. Rick observed that St. Olaf's traditional study service programs (semester-length, with the service component being one course for the four courses taken at the University attract a small number of students who desire a distinctly different type of abroad program, and argued that these programs be maintained even if they are of interest to only a small number of students.

Bruce Dalgaard and Brad Kmoch from the Center of Experiential Learning presented information regarding the Lilly grant and summer (or perhaps Interim) international service-learning opportunities it will provide students. For summer, 2003, CEL will be working with the Social Work Program and the Russian Department to see if the already-existing programs for social work in Stavanger, Norway and the Russian orphanage in Novgorod can satisfy the grant's guidelines. These are not necessarily credit-bearing programs. The director of the Lilly grant is not required to report to IOS about these international serving-learning opportunities, but IOS would like to be involved.

IDOCS members identified several issues in need of further discussion and clarification by the Task Force. These include:

- Definitions: it appears that three different types of programs fall under the general umbrella of service learning: the College's traditional study/service programs, new programs proposed by CEL through the Lilly grant, and faculty-led programs. IDOCS needs to have specific definitions for each of these program types, including when the programs take place (academic year, Interim, summer), whether or not they are credit-bearing, who has oversight for them, costs, payment of faculty, etc.
 - Future directions: what direction should Study/service and/or service-learning take at St. Olaf in the future? If time and resources are limited, where should efforts be focused?
 - IDOCS asked the Task Force to report back to IDOCS next Fall with definitions; a final report, including recommendations, is requested by December 15, 2003. Task Force members will remain in contact with Pat Quade regarding all issues related to study-service and/or service learning, including international internships.
3. Wendy Allen announced that the April 16 meeting would focus on issues related to final review of existing policy documents, in particular the new course proposal form and the Policy Manual.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
Roseanne Galegher
Recording Secretary, IDOCS