

IDOCS

Minutes for the International and Domestic Off-Campus Studies Committee May 8, 2001

Members present: Kathryn Ananda-Owens, Dick Bodman, Maggie Broner, Tim Laffredi, Xun Pomponio, Patrick Quade, Mike Swift and Adam Zobel.

Guests present: Irina Walter, Jonathan Pearce and David Booth.

Old Business:

1. The minutes from April 18th were discussed, the committee will vote on approval during the May 8th meeting.
2. Pat Quade provided updates from the International & Off-Campus Studies Office.
 - a) 786 applications have been submitted for interim 2002.
 - b) The IOS is engaged in several professional development activities.
 - Jolene Barjasteh, Rick Fairbanks, Anne Walter, Helen Stellmaker and Patrick Quade will participate in the ACM Best Practice Conference in Chicago in June.
 - Kathy Tuma will present at the NAFSA conference in late May.
 - Patrick Quade will give a presentation on internationalization at the Roanoke Conference in October.
 - c) The Internationalization Faculty Survey is now on-line.

New Business:

1. Irina Walter presented a comparison of three program opportunities in Russia: the ACM program in Krasnodar, the CIEE program in St. Petersburg and the Novgorod University program.
 - a) Irina expressed some reservations regarding the ACM Krasnodar program. The language program is ok, but students learn the Ukrainian pronunciation. Krasnodar is a provincial city with few cultural opportunities.
 - b) She approved of the Novgorod University program. Students learn the standard Russian language, the location is good, 100 miles from St. Petersburg and 6 hours from Moscow. There are not many foreigners in Novgorod and with the homestay students are immersed in the local culture. The program is less expensive than the ACM and CIEE programs. Students have immediate access to the faculty at the university. There is the potential to develop an exchange program with Novgorod students coming to St. Olaf.

2. Jonathan Pearce reported on his experience at Novgorod University.
 - a) He took three Russian language courses, speaking, writing and grammar, and one Russian culture course with a main focus on literature.
 - b) He felt that the orientation was good, the environment was safe and the health care was satisfactory. He felt that there was total immersion into the Russian language and culture and that the homestay was ideal.
3. A motion was made to raise the Novgorod University program from pilot to full program status. The motion was passed.
4. David Booth presented the Oregon Extension program for the IDOCS scheduled review.
 - a) He provided a handout including an overview of the program, the facility, the faculty and the curriculum. The program focuses on writing and small group conversations. The returning students are zealous supporters of the program, the faculty is committed and dedicated to the program. The environment offers no distractions.
 - b) It is suggested that the St. Olaf program advisor share St. Olaf College general education guidelines with the Oregon Extension faculty so that they can work to incorporate our minimum requirements.
 - c) The motion was passed to re-affirm unconditionally the Oregon Extension program.

Respectfully submitted,

Synneva Zempel
Secretary, IDOCS