

# USG Study Abroad Committee Meeting Minutes

**Macon State College**

**Building K, Rm. 106**

**January 16, 2004**

## **Members present:**

Jim Anderson - Armstrong Atlantic

Chris Bourdouvalis- Augusta State

Rich Bennett- Southern Polytechnic

Nancy Shumaker- GA Southern

Patrick Brennan- Macon State

Misty Holm- Georgia State

Roma Cibirka- Medical College

Cornelius St. Mark- Savannah State

Harriet Nichols- Georgia Perimeter

Mid Brock- Darton College

Neal McCrillis- Columbus State

Florence Wakoko- Columbus State

Philip Szmedra - Georgia Southwestern

Dwight Call- Georgia College

Lisa Mallory- Atlanta Metropolitan

Tracy Harrington- Valdosta State

Jill Clemmons- Valdosta State

Martha Hughes- East Georgia

Karen Guffey- Gordon College

Patricia Ryan Ikegarioum- Albany State

Chaudron Gille- Gainesville

Heather Copan- Middle Georgia

Joanna Avant- Georgia Tech

Dlynn Armstrong-Williams- North Georgia

Beth Biron- Dalton State

Colleen O'Hara- Kennesaw State

Bill Schaniel- West Georgia

Alberta Johnson- Floyd

Sue Sugarman- USG OIE

David Starling- Valdosta State

Maria del Mar Anes- Georgia Perimeter (visiting scholar from Spain)

Jim began the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and give a brief update on study abroad

initiatives on their respective campuses. There are several new programs, initiatives, and activities taking place throughout the System.

The World Regional Council chairs then gave a brief summary of the state of programs and initiatives, including three Faculty Development Seminars that are being offered this summer: Deadlines for all three programs are fast approaching, and seminar applicants are eligible to apply for Chancellor's Awards again this year.

East Africa [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/seminars/e\\_africa04.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/seminars/e_africa04.phtml)

Hungary [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/seminars/hungary04.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/seminars/hungary04.phtml)

Spain [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/seminars/spain04.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/seminars/spain04.phtml)

Sue Sugarman gave a brief update from the System office. The search is underway for Susan Leisure's replacement as well as a new position for the new NSEP on-line language learning project. Application materials for the new collaborative study abroad grant proposal were distributed. Sue reminded the committee of the upcoming seminar on Incorporating Faculty Seminars and Teaching Abroad into the Curriculum, which will be held at Clayton College & State University on March 12-13, 2004. She also reminded those present of the April 2 deadline for the Global partnerships grants, the Best Practices Grants (Most Internationalized Unit [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/most\\_intrl.pdf](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/most_intrl.pdf) and Degree Programs with an Integrated Study Abroad Component [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/sa\\_component.pdf](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/sa_component.pdf)) and February 27 deadline for the Regents Scholarship for study abroad. She also reminded the committee of the STARS funding opportunities and reporting requirements. The deadline for FY05 funding requests will be due to the System office on April 2, 2004.

Jim reminded those present to please turn in 2002-2003 study abroad data to the System office as 7 campuses have yet to submit the data.

Colleen O'Hara indicated that Kennesaw has a proposed study abroad program to Israel under consideration and wanted to solicit the committee's feedback on the idea. Committee members expressed concerns ranging from the State Department's travel warnings for Israel to liability issues to credibility issues in the System. Many campuses use the travel warnings as a "litmus test" to determine when to cancel a program. Members expressed concern over parents' attitudes and the need to carefully publicize the program in a way that reflects the seriousness of the location and the potential dangers involved. Some individuals expressed a reluctance to promote or market such a program on their respective campuses since one bad incident could make all study abroad programs suffer. Members also expressed concern that this program offering might undermine our ability to endorse other programs. It was noted that there are currently more than 265 programs in the System, yet many programs struggle to recruit the necessary numbers of participants. A lot of time, energy and money would be invested in promoting a site that is negatively perceived and may only be marginally successful. A suggestion was made that Kennesaw consider investigating other long-term, well-established programs to Israel, perhaps via the SECUSSA listserv. The consensus was that the committee members as a whole have great concerns about image, safety and liability issues associated with this study site.

Jim reminded the committee about the March 1 deadline for the new collaborative study abroad grant proposals

([http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/usg\\_info/collab\\_grant04.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/usg_info/collab_grant04.phtml)) for creating study abroad partnerships in underserved geographic and academic areas. Amy Henry, Leigh Walker, Jim Anderson, Susan Leisure, and Sue Sugarman worked on the RFP, while Dwight Call, David Starling, Dan Paracka, Jim and Sue worked on identifying the underserved academic disciplines and underserved geographic regions. The target areas for this year's proposal is Latin America or Eastern Europe, and disciplines were health, education, and math/computer science. Partnerships with 2-year campuses and institutions with few study abroad program offerings will be given special consideration. Funds can be used for planning, site visits, and support to defray program costs and an in-kind campus match of at least 25% is required. The in-kind match could be monetary or could be a course release, faculty time or materials (phone calls, photocopies, secretarial support, etc). This grant is designed to be an annual offering, and emphasis on locations and academic disciplines will change from year to year. Jim indicated that there will be a selection committee from among the committee membership to help select the proposals that will be supported by grant funding.

Jim then began a discussion about the continuation of the USG Study Abroad Catalog in its current format. Many members felt that students and administrators are impressed by the appearance and comprehensive content of the catalog as it is a good source of initial information about study abroad programs in the USG. At the same time, there was concern about the cost of producing the catalog as well as the time commitment required to produce it. The committee was reminded to take advantage of the on-line version [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/catalog/programs.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/catalog/programs.phtml) as students can search by field of study, country, or term.

David Starling gave a brief overview of ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) [http://www.usg.edu/international\\_ed/study\\_abroad/isep.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/study_abroad/isep.phtml) and the System's progress in meeting the goal of sending at least 25 students abroad on ISEP programs each year. The ISEP consortium, USG campuses who are sending and receiving institutions for ISEP, are Armstrong (new member), Columbus, Georgia College, Kennesaw, North Georgia, West Georgia, and Valdosta. David reminded the committee that ISEP provides virtually unlimited possibilities for overseas study in both English and other languages in virtually every discipline imaginable. Any student in the USG is eligible to participate in an ISEP program. Students who attend institutions other than the 7 consortium members are sent outbound as transient students at one of the 7 institutions, and credits are transferred back to the student's home institution. As USG coordinator of ISEP, David manages the applicants and assists with placements overseas. 2-year campuses were curious as to how ISEP could benefit their students, and David promised to send out a list of programs that are appropriate for second-year students. he also offered to come to any USG campus to help explain and promote ISEP programs.

The committee was asked about its level of satisfaction regarding the CISI study abroad insurance. Jim reminded the members of the importance in assuring that all USG students who go abroad be fully insured against accident and illness, especially trips abroad such as choir trips, band tours, etc. USG institutions currently utilizing CISI for study abroad participants include: Armstrong, Augusta, Columbus, Darton, Fort Valley, Gainesville, Georgia College, Georgia Southern, Gordon, North Georgia, The University of Georgia, and Valdosta, as well as the European Council-sponsored programs.

The committee discussed the concern about the dollar's loss in value as compared to the euro and polled

members to see how they were handling the situation.

A copy of the USG study abroad pre-departure handbook was distributed, and members who wished to receive an electronic version signed up to have a copy sent to them via email. The orientation handbook is a template that was designed to be tailored to campus-specific programs and issues, and Sue asked that campuses please submit suggestions for additional topics or content.

Jim indicated that last year, the System Study Abroad Conference was cancelled in favor of offering smaller, more tailored workshops to better meet the study abroad needs of campuses in the USG. Topics that would be included in the regional mini-workshops are marketing/publicity, registrar and financial aid issues, ISEP, and study abroad funding.

The System office is in the process of revising the USG Study Abroad Program Development Handbook, and the office hopes to have it ready by the spring so that the recipients of the collaborative grant funding can have an updated guide to help them plan new study abroad programs.

Announcements included the following:

- An organizational meeting for a proposed Middle East Consortium will meet on Friday, January 23 from 1-3 at Macon State in room 106 of building K.
- The Americas Council Conference will take place February 20-21 at Armstrong Atlantic.
- The International Students and Scholars Committee meeting will be held Friday January 23rd at Macon State from 10-12 in room 106 of building K.
- The European Council and the Faculty and Curriculum Committee meetings will be held on Friday February 27 at Macon State.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon, January, 16, 2004

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