PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN SERVICE PROVIDER
FOR STUDY ABROAD or EXCHANGE PROGRAM
USAC-Ghana at U of Ghana

RATIONALE: We have been sending students to the University of Ghana at Legon via ISEP-Direct since fall 2007. However, the ISEP-Direct program fee has risen from $7,300 for tuition, room, and board in fall 2007 to $10,300 in spring 2014 for the same services. With an increase of approximately 30% in the program fee over the course of seven years, we have seen the participation in the program decline. As such, we began looking at a less expensive option at the same location/university with similar services. By staying with the same university-University of Ghana, all course equivalencies that have been established will stay the same.

We searched among our existing partners at the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) as they have a program at the U of Ghana. We currently use USAC for our program in Pau, France and have noticed very little fee increases over the course of the program. We sent the first group of students to the USAC-Pau program in spring 2008 with a tuition charge of $5680 and in spring 2014 the students are being charged $6180 for tuition- an increase of only 8% over the course of seven years.

In comparing the estimated costs for fall 2014 between USAC-Ghana and ISEP-Direct Ghana, we noticed a substantial cost difference of about $4,000. See attached ISEP-Direct and USAC costs estimates. The services provided by ISEP-Direct and USAC are very similar as documented in the table below. As such there would be no significant change in services or student experience if we were to change program providers from ISEP-Direct to USAC.

The most significant change is that USAC offers four courses taught each semester by USAC faculty. Please see the Curriculum section for more details on this change.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>ISEP-Direct</th>
<th>USAC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host Institution</td>
<td>U of Ghana, Legon</td>
<td>U of Ghana, Legon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resident Director</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academics</td>
<td>Students take courses at the U of Ghana</td>
<td>Students take courses at the U of Ghana and take courses offered by USAC faculty. Typically, there are a total of 4 USAC courses offered per semester.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GPA Requirement</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>International hostel</td>
<td>International hostel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>Students receive stipend to purchase food</td>
<td>Students buy own food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Airport Pick Up Service</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Opportunities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes. Also have 1 or 2 credit service learning option</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Trips-Included in Program Fee</td>
<td>• Accra City Tour • Cape Coast and Kakum National Forest • Kumasi Cultural Center, Kente Cloth Weaving, Wood Carving Village, Kumasi Central Market</td>
<td>• Accra City Tour • Cape Coast and Rain Forest • Beach and Shoreline Excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Group Flight</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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ENROLLMENT LIMITS: The USAC stated maximum enrollment per semester is 25 students. However, the maximum is flexible as it is primarily a housing concern. Typically, USAC-Ghana enrolls about 15-20 students per semester on the program. Historically, UW-Eau Claire has sent one to five student(s) per semester to Ghana. The program has adequate capacity to accommodate the student interest at UW-Eau Claire if student interest at UW-Eau Claire conforms to historic levels of one to five students per semester.

ACADEMIC LOGISTICS:
1. How are grades reported? University of Ghana courses are reported on a transcript issued by the University of Ghana. Typically it arrives about 2-3 months after the program ends. USAC courses will be reported on a USAC grade report.

2. What language is used on the above document? If not English, what resources are required for an English translation? The University of Ghana and the USAC Grade Report are in English. No translation services are required.

3. What credit system is used and how does it translate into U.S. credits? Most courses offered at the University of Ghana are the equivalent to 3 U.S. credits. The maximum load is 18 credits. Historically, we have seen students take 12-15 credits at University of Ghana via ISEP-Direct.

4. How is course level determined? Course levels are the same as UW-Eau Claire: 100, 200, 300, and 400. Currently 100 & 200 level courses are considered lower division courses and 300 and 400 level courses are considered upper division.

5. What grade scale is used and what is the conversion to UWEC grades? University of Ghana uses an A-F letter scale like the United States. Currently, the A-F grade listed on the University of Ghana transcript is posted on the UW-Eau Claire transcript.

CURRICULUM:

U of Ghana Courses
Course work at the University of Ghana is offered in English. Students can take course work at the University of Ghana across the university as long as they meet the pre-requisite courses and as long as they can coordinate class and exam timetables.
Students will not officially register for classes until they arrive in Ghana.

Courses are available in the following areas of study. Course descriptions can be found at: http://www.ug.edu.gh/index1.php?linkid=814.

Colleges
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

Faculties
- Faculty of Arts
- Faculty of Engineering Sciences
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Sciences

Schools
- Business School
- School of Communications Studies
- School of Performing Arts
- School of Graduate Studies

USAC Courses
Each semester USAC offers 4 courses taught by local faculty and transcripted on a USAC grade report. All students are required to take the Society, Government, and Politics and are encouraged to take Intro to Asante Twi Language.

USAC courses are taught by local Ghanaian faculty or U.S. American faculty living in Ghana. All of our USAC course syllabi, including the professor credentials must be approved by the University of Nevada, Reno each year.

Ghanaian Culture and Natural Resources Field Study
Fall (Political Science, 1 credit, 400-level)
Spring (Political Science, 1 credit, 400-level)

USAC offers a one credit field studies course in Ghanaian culture and natural resources. The USAC encourages every student to participate in the field studies course. However, this segment of the program is optional and enrollment in the field studies
course is necessary to participate on the trip itself. A fee is charged for the field trip to cover transportation, and room and board.

**Introduction to Asante Twi Language (RECOMMENDED)**
Fall (3 credits, 100-level)
Spring (3 credits, 100-level)

This course is designed to introduce Asante Twi language and to provide skills for basic communicative situations. Different conversational themes such as restaurant/dining, telephone conversation, post office, hotel, train station, etc. and related vocabulary are introduced. Students will practice new vocabulary with role-playing and discussions.

**Service Learning**
Fall (Service Learning, Social Work, 1/2/3 credits, 400-level)
Spring (Service Learning, Social Work, 1/2/3 credits, 400-level)

Service learning combines community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility. Service learning programs involve students in activities that address community-identified needs, while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community.

**Society, Government and Politics in Ghana and Africa (REQUIRED Course)**
Fall (Political Science, Sociology, 3 credits, 400-level)
Spring (Political Science, Sociology, 3 credits, 400-level)

This course will analyze the social, cultural, political and economic issues in Ghana, which have originated from historical circumstances but have impacted the current status of the country and its people. We will examine how Ghana and its people were shaped by their history, as well as how their status both on the African continent and globally is affected by their culture, politics, and continued economic stability. This course will provide an opportunity to explore Ghana’s culture and prosperity through contact with members of its business and political community.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**
Per the USAC website,

USAC students reside in the International Hostel in double rooms. Single rooms may be available for an additional fee. A few Ghanian students are selected to live there with you, which offers a great way for you to get to know locals. There is 24-hour security.
The dorm is very clean and has many amenities. There are communal bathrooms on each floor. Kitchen facilities are available for students to do their own simple cooking. Each floor has a common room with couches, chairs, and some TVs. Most students eat out, rather than cook. There is a café on the bottom floor of the dorm with delicious food and the staff is friendly. There is also a convenience store where you can buy drinks, snacks, and miscellaneous items. There are student cafes and cafeterias on campus where students can eat three meals a day for a minimal price. There are also many restaurants throughout the city.
Wifi is available in housing and on campus at no charge. There is a lounge in the dorm where for a small fee students can use computers and internet if they don’t have their own computer.

**CALENDAR:**
The fall term runs early August to mid-December. The spring term runs mid-January to the end of May.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** We propose lowering the GPA requirement for the program from a 3.00, which was required by ISEP, to a 2.5 which is accepted by USAC.

**FOREIGN CULTURE REQUIREMENT:** Under the current foreign culture requirement as documented in the 2013-2014 UWEC Undergraduate Catalogue on page 37, a semester abroad at on the USAC-Ghana program would allow eligible students to fulfill their foreign culture requirement under the following option:

(b) earning credit (and maintaining good academic standing) in either a full semester of study abroad or approved internship abroad, or incrementally through a combination of short term study abroad and courses designated as fulfilling the foreign culture requirement. The incremental value of a short term study abroad program is available in the Center for International Education, Schofield 3.