PROPOSAL TO CLOSE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IN RIGA, LATVIA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA (INTA 386)

RATIONALE: University of Latvia and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire first signed an agreement of cooperation for a study abroad program in 1994. Over the course of the affiliation, student interest has declined. The last student to study on the program was in fall 2012; he was the only participant that semester. As such, we are recommending the cancellation of the program.

Brief History: During the early years and up until 2004-2005, UW-Eau Claire would send a cooperating faculty member with the group of students comprised partly of UWEC students and partly of special students from other institutions. Due to inconsistent and under-enrollment, the program was changed to a direct enroll, fee-paying study abroad agreement starting in 2006-2007 open only to UWEC students. The last signed agreement for the study abroad, fee-paying students was signed in August 2012.

Curricular Challenges: Due to limited course offerings in English, students have primarily been restricted to pursuing course work in the Baltic Study Programme. Most of the courses are 3 ECTS credits (1.5 U.S. semester credits), which does not convert well to the UW-Eau Claire crediting system. Students have also taken Latvian and Russian language in the past.

Recent Enrollment: Since Fall 2006, we have sent a total of eight students on the program. The largest cohort in this period was two students. Most often the cohort consists of a single student. The last student to participate in the program was fall 2012. Between fall 2012 and present, we have one student start and withdraw an application.