Guatemala FLIIIE and FC

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
A Faculty Led International Immersion Experience (FLIIIE) to Guatemala was approved and funded with Blugold Commitment dollars. This non-credit-bearing experience will provide students with the opportunity to study and engage in social and environmental justice and sustainability initiatives within the context of Latin America. Students will experience an intensive immersion experience in a developing country where they will work in solidarity with the Guatemalan people to exchange ideas about equality, sustainability, and development in a different culture. The program exceeds the 5-point threshold established by the Center for International Education for study-abroad programs seeking partial (3 credits worth) of Foreign Culture designation. The proposal is for 3-credits of FC credit under the General Education framework.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Based on the existing CIE rubric for awarding incremental FC credit to study abroad program, the Guatemalan program qualifies for 3 credits (or 1/3 of the total) of the 9-credit Foreign Culture requirement. Specifically, the program earned 6 points within the three criteria: foreign language, contact with local culture, and instruction by faculty from the host country. (Please see details in original proposal: Guatemala_Proposal_2014_2015.pdf.)
2. The program includes pre-trip and post-trip meetings. The program may later be offered for credit.
3. The program is being funded through a Blugold Commitment grant for Faculty Led International Immersion Experiences (FLIIIE). Future sustainability and funding relies upon continued grant funding.
4. The program coordinators are considering rotating faculty each year with an experienced faculty leader and a trainee. The trainee leads the following year and a new faculty member learns as a trainee.
5. Dr. Avin and Dr. DeCosta in Economics could provide valuable advice and collaborating, as they can both address racial, religious, and human rights issues.
6. 14 students have already signed up for this Winterim international immersion experience.
7. The night at the orphanage is considered equivalent to a home stay.
8. The lectures (both here and in Guatemala) will be given by local and on-site Guatemalans.
9. The immersion experience includes three pre-trip meetings and a post-trip meeting and reflection paper. (Please see attached schedule: Guatemala_Schedule.pdf.)
10. Service-learning and internships will always be a part of this experience.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. As a non-credit-bearing experience, it still meets the established CIE criteria.
2. As a non-credit-bearing experience, it could be developed for later consideration for liberal education.

Cons of Recommendation: The racial and religious issues components have not been finalized yet.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Accept the Social and Environmental Justice experience to Guatemala for incremental Foreign Culture Credit (of 3 credits, or 1/3 of total Foreign Culture requirements).
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _8_ in favor and _0_ against on October 14, 2014

recommends that the Social and Environmental Justice experience to Guatemala be accepted for incremental Foreign Culture Credit (of 3 credits, or 1/3 of total Foreign Culture requirements).

Implementation Date: Immediate

Signed: _______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office