REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered (from the CIE proposal):
Beginning in 2012, Payap University has undergone major administrative restructuring that has negatively impacted their ability to consistently offer programs to our students. In 2013 and in 2014, UWEC students admitted to this program have had their program cancelled by Payap University on very short notice, due to administrative problems at Payap University. All funds were returned to the students, but the cancellation came at such short notice that students were unable to have a study abroad experience. UWEC student interest in study abroad in Thailand remains strong and we want to continue a presence in this world region, as it draws the interest of many Hmong-American students and students in education and nursing.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Director Markgraf has a long, positive relationship with Payap University. Administrative changes at Payap have made collaboration, unfortunately, unsustainable.
2. We may lose some Payap students currently coming to UWEC. However, we hope to continue bringing them, as they typically take ESL courses and some music offerings.
3. Study abroad interest in Thailand is strong at UWEC, especially among Education and Nursing majors and this will allow them to obtain a meaningful study abroad experience.
4. Internships in this program have a higher GPA requirement.
5. The off-campus residencies are not a problem for students. Most public universities outside the US have off-site housing.
6. A 1999 assessment study conducted by CIE revealed that students of color as well as education and nursing students were not studying abroad. A study-abroad program in Thailand appeals to these target populations.
7. The hill tribes in Thailand speak Hmong. Our Hmong students studying abroad understood them perfectly.
8. Students wear uniforms.
9. Education and nursing students are interested in the Thailand study-abroad program since they will be working with Hmong students/patients.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. The USAC-affiliated program at Chiang Mai is $2,000 less than the Payap program.
2. Many of our Hmong students have ties to Thailand.
3. The USAC-affiliated program at Chiang Mai provides a resident director, and internship and service-learning opportunities. The Payap program provide none of those.

Cons of Recommendation:
1. We are likely to lose some Payap exchange students, unless Director Markgraf can persuade Payap University to continue to send students for the excellent ESL and music programs.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Close the Payap University Exchange program and open a new Study Abroad program at Chaing Mai University, in collaboration with USAC.
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 Payap University Exchange program be closed and a new Study Abroad program at Chaing Mai University, in collaboration with USAC, be opened.

Implementation Date: Immediate

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt______
   Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office