REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
We stopped sending our students to our current study-abroad destinations due to U.S. State Department Travel Warnings for Mexico. The Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) is located in the state of Puebla, which has no advisory in effect. UWEC students have a strong interest in studying in Mexico, so this dual study-abroad/exchange program would fit into both academic and career plans.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Representatives from UPAEP visited UWEC in 2013 and expressed interest in a study-abroad/exchange program. Our CIE staff visited UPAEP and found it to be a compatible partner.
2. A number of 5-week programs have been established during the summer including Spanish for Business, Spanish for Education, and Spanish for Health Professions. UPAEP will customize their programs to add a week of service-learning or an internship to allow Spanish majors and minors to obtain their required 6-week immersion.
3. During the academic year, students have the option of taking an intensive Spanish courses, regular courses, or a combination of both.
4. The regular-semester courses are generally taught in Spanish. Students must complete SPAN 301 prior to entering this program.
5. Spanish faculty from UW-Eau Claire can teach a course at UPAEP in the summer which would be open to Mexican students, UW-Eau Claire students, and other exchange students. Housing would be provided along with a small stipend for meals. Our faculty are onboard with this opportunity.
6. UPAEP currently has an IEP partnership with a Canadian institute but would like one with us as well. Catherine Lee is working with them.
7. There is no disadvantage to participating in the exchange during the semester versus the summer.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. This program aligns well with students’ academic and professional career goals.
2. This program includes faculty teaching in Mexico. UPAEP provides faculty housing and meals.

Cons of Recommendation:
1. Although Puebla has no travel advisory in effect, we can’t control student movement after they get to Mexico. UWEC will need to provide extra pre-departure advising. Student travel during the summer may not be an issue as the coursework is intensive and includes weekend excursions. CIE is planning to strengthen advising and direct students to monitor the CIE website. The Council on Internationalization and Global Engagement is also being consulted.

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Establish a study abroad/exchange program the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP).
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _6_ in favor and _0_ against on September 29, 2015,

recommends that a study abroad/exchange program the Universidad Popular Autónoma del Estado de Puebla (UPAEP) be established.

Implementation Date: 2016-2017 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office