REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
(From the Center for International Education) 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.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. Until 2004-2005, UWEC sent a faculty member to oversee students from UWEC and other institutions. Low enrollment resulted in changing to UWEC-only students in 2006-2007.
2. Only 1 or 2 students participated in this program each year. The last student to participate went in 2012.
3. Very few of the courses are in English, which limited course availability to UWEC students.
4. The credit system was different (1.5/3.0), which made it difficult to transfer courses back to UWEC for the proper credit.
5. This program is totally independent of the Dr. Aina Galejs scholarship program, which supports Latvian students—both from the University of Latvia and other Latvian universities—who wish to study at UWEC. That scholarship is independently funded. Terminating the study abroad program with the University of Latvia will in no way jeopardize the Dr. Aina Galejs scholarship program.
6. The study abroad program at the University of Latvia is also completely independent from UWEC’s Central European Travel Seminar.
7. Based on questions raised during a previous University Senate meeting, Interim Lead Marchwick developed a FAQ handout (please see attached for factual data).
8. Advertising a program on the CIE website is not costly; more importantly is the ability to live up to the commitment to follow-through and support the student(s) through their full experience. This becomes problematic with programs that don’t run (for a variety of reasons) after the student has invested time and emotional energy into applying and making study-abroad plans.
9. A study-abroad program impacts other units on campus such as Registration and business offices.
10. Latvia is a rare place to study and is very affordable. Some faculty have expressed interest in investigating the possibility of establishing a study-abroad program at another University that poses less barriers to our students (e.g., the University of Stockholm in Latvia). The University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire should keep Latvia in mind for future study-abroad opportunities and look for institutions that pose less barriers (e.g., institutions that provide courses in English) so that students have an opportunity to study in this unique country.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Removes from the UWEC offerings a program in which no students have demonstrated interest in the past four years.
2. Enables the Center for International Education the ability to publicize the programs they are sure they can support both from UWEC side and from the other institution’s side.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: Reduces responsibilities of decreased staff members in the Center for International Education, thereby enabling them to focus on those programs serving current students.

Committee Recommendation:
Eliminate the study abroad program in Riga, Latvia, at the University of Latvia (INTA 386).
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _9_ in favor and _0_ against on March 1, 2016,

recommends that the study abroad program in Riga, Latvia, at the University of Latvia (INTA 386) be eliminated.

Inactive Date: August 31, 2016

Signed: _______Jean A. Pratt_____
        Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office