China Study Abroad

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered (from CIE proposal):
In 2012 UW-Eau Claire established an exchange agreement with Beijing Normal University (BNU). In 2013-14 we began the first exchange of students. UWEC sent 2 students in exchange there this year; the experience did not meet UWEC standards or expectations in terms of quality of student services or academic advising. Problems encountered include the following:

- Disorganized application process resulting in students' having to submit application materials repeatedly
- Inaccurate information provided to UWEC CIE staff and students regarding class start dates, arrival dates, and related essential information
- Outdated course information on BNU website
- Inadequate responses from BNU staff when clarifications were sought
- UWEC students enrolled in courses at the inappropriate level, etc.

Points Discussed by Committee:
1. The program in Beijing is not properly serving our students.
2. The change in study-abroad programs from Beijing to Chengdu is not expected to affect Chinese students coming to UWEC from Beijing as part of the 1-2-1 program.
3. The new study abroad includes internships, service-learning and a resident director, where the Beijing program did not.
4. Historically, we have had very good results by partnering with the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC). USAC provides a resident director and other student support.
5. Housing in China is in the same building as the USAC office.
6. UWEC just hired a new tenure track faculty to teach Chinese. Formerly we used visiting Chinese scholars, some of whom lacked the background to teach Chinese as a second language. Enrollment in the Chinese courses is strong. CIE estimates that the Chinese courses will increase enrollment in the study-abroad program from the current 1-2 students/year up to about 10 students/year.
7. Costs for this program are only $1,000 above costs for the Beijing program, and the program is better.
8. The proposed program in Chengdu will not compete with our existing business studies exchange partner at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Pros of Recommendation:
1. Better program, which is needed for a growing student interest in Chinese study-abroad programs
2. On-site director
3. Opportunities for service-learning and internships
4. Ongoing relationship with trusted partner: USAC

Cons of Recommendation:
1. A $1,000 increase in costs could pose a financial barrier

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:
Close the Beijing Normal University Exchange and open a new Study Abroad at Southwest University for Nationalities (SWUN) in Chengdu, 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 Beijing Normal University Exchange be closed and a new Study Abroad at Southwest University for Nationalities (SWUN) in Chengdu, in collaboration with USAC, be opened.

Implementation Date: Immediate

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
Chair of the Committee
Send to: University Senate Office