

Study Abroad Sub-Committee (Virtual Meeting)

System Council on International Education

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2020

Attendance: Lorie Johns Paulez (Georgia Tech), Melanie Smith (Albany State), Eric Spears (Columbus State), Sasha Cokuslu (Clayton State), Irina McClellan (Valdosta State), Ivan Nikolov (Valdosta State), Yana Cornish (UGA), Margaret Mullins (USG), Coryn Shiflet (USG), Christy Flatt (Gordon State), Liz Havey (Georgia College), Jarris Lanham (Georgia College), Farra Bernardino (Georgia State), Erin Rasche (KSU), Jim Lynch (Georgia Coastal), Daniela Martinez (UNG), Darby Sewell (ABAC), Maria Darley (Augusta State), Berthlot Yeves, Illana Blumenfeld-Gantz, Fernando Garcia, Laura Boudon, Lauren Ditmann, Joshua Hudson, Lawrence Christopher, Leigh Knapp, Pamela Harrold.

1. Meeting called to order by Lorie Johns Paulez at 11:15 am
2. Review of minutes from January 24, 2020
3. Minutes approved with no changes.
4. Coryn Shiflet – USG updates
 - i. USG grant recipients were announced.
 - ii. Coryn reminded that USG study abroad fairs information is available on the USG website.
 - iii. Coryn reminded the group regarding the SA attribute codes that need to be entered in banner.
 - iv. Coryn reminded about the report on International Activities of the USG that was sent out earlier this semester.
 - v. Title IX changes were mentioned: colleges are not responsible for sexual harassment that happens at a study abroad location.
 - vi. Reminder regarding the CISI and supplemental Cancel for Any Reason insurance.
5. Coryn asked whether USG institutions are still planning Spring 2021 study abroad programs. Most responded that they have cancelled their Spring trips, but are still planning for summer 2021 study abroad. Decisions regarding summer study abroad trips will be determined by the time when the payments to vendors / airlines are due.
6. Coryn was asked whether there will be benchmarking regarding cancellations and future planning. She said that she does not know whether there will be an announcement from USG regarding this.

Open Discussion.

Virtual Study Abroad and Financial Aid

1. Yana Cornish from UGA asked about Financial Aid for Virtual Study Abroad and mentioned that financial aid officers want to be compliance with federal regulations. Coryn stated that there were no additional updates regarding this, but mentioned that Tracy Ireland, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Enrollment Services is the person to ask these questions. She can be

contacted at Tracy.Ireland@usg.edu . Yana Cornish also mentioned the October 9 Virtual Exchange webinar. Dr. Nikolov from VSU asked about UGA's definition/ criteria of experiential learning and Yana shared their on-line resources. She mentioned that Andrew Potter is the lead person for experiential learning at UGA. Liz Havey asked about scholarships for virtual exchanges and mentioned that at Georgia College regular study abroad scholarships could not be used for virtual study abroad since there is no travel involved.

COVID 19 Plans

2. Questions were raised about office International Offices' presence on campus during / after Thanksgiving break and until the end of the semester (November 23-December 23) when campuses are supposed to go virtual. Most institutions replied that they plan to rotate staff in their offices to have constant presence through the end of the semester.
3. Maria Darley asked if anyone is using the CISI cancellation policy. Most schools replied that they are providing this information to the students and making it optional for them to purchase this travel cancellation policy on their own.
4. Next meeting is set for January 22, 2021 to be held virtually. At that time elections for the Study Abroad Committee officers will be held.
5. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.