



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII*
MĀNOA

October 20, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reed Dasenbrock
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

FROM: John Casken, Professor & Chair
Council on Study Abroad

Sarita Rai, Director

SUBJECT: Program Review One-Year Progress Report

In Fall 2012 when the Study Abroad Council reviewed the External Review Report of the Study Abroad Center there was surprise expressed at the fact that the Review had no formal recommendations. However during the discussion it was agreed that the recommendations were implicit in the text of the report. So below is the text of the Report with what the Council feel are the implicit recommendations bulleted, numbered and highlighted. Then follows what has happened with these recommendations during this last year

Study Abroad: The report on Study Abroad is excerpted directly from the External Program Review (July 11, 2012, pp8-9). The report begins:

"The study abroad staff is, like almost all the professional UHM staff we met, very dedicated to their students and their students' success.

- (1) they operate from poor physical facilities
- (2) and have at best, modest levels of staff.
- (3) if UHM has expansion of study abroad (in the broadest sense of the term, e.g., to include exchange students) as a major strategic goal, then the campus will need to make some significant additional resource investments in the program.

If the current levels of student participation are deemed satisfactory, the program operates effectively with an unusually high level of academic connection to the UHM faculty. This integrated strategy undoubtedly enhances student experience and faculty development ;

- (4) it may also restrict opportunities to those represented by UHM faculty as it appears to discourage recruitment of faculty from other institutions who represent disciplines or subspecialties not found in the UHM faculty.
- (5) The operational/administrative staffing falls well below typical university levels so that more senior ranks end up regularly engaged in duties which don't fit their advanced training and skill levels.

- (6) We also think the strategy of depending on volunteer faculty proposals from which particular Study Abroad programs are chosen might be strengthened with longer range, more stable strategic planning of the curriculum menu.
- The current strategy appears to be a bit haphazard.

From the student perspective

- (7) the largest barrier appears to be high cost.

Adequate loans and grants are available but they usually result in a major debt load for students. There was also concern

- (8) that it actually slowed graduation times for students to do Study Abroad; it should not and need not do that .

- (9) We note that the response to the recommendations in the last review of Study Abroad apparently stimulated little or no changes despite a nearly doubling of enrollment levels in the program (emphasis added) [End of Report]

Below is the list of the One-Year progress report to what are seen as the nine recommendations or concerns of the Reviewers.

1. The Study Abroad Center (SAC) cannot do anything about the facilities. However a request for additional space was sent to the Vice Chancellor Kathy Cutshaw during Spring 2013. Personnel from facilities visited the SAC.
2. We have requested more staff. Chancellor Tom Apple approved Kualii Council's request for one general funded permanent FTE faculty to be designated for Study Abroad.
3. We hope that there can be significant investments by campus in the program
4. We explained why we don't have other faculty involved.
5. Staffing is an issue over which SAC has no control. However, with the additional general funded position by the Chancellor, SAC may now hire "soft money" personnel for fiscal and advertizing on a regular basis.
6. The external reviewers totally misunderstood how the program operates - there is indeed much long range planning and curriculum are not haphazard.
7. Cost is an issue. SAC and the Council continue to investigate how to reduce costs for the Hawai'i resident students. In Spring 2013 a request was made from MIEC to VCAA to appropriate scholarship in the amount of \$500,000 for those students who wish to study abroad through various venues. This request was to duplicate the amount of scholarship provided to international students currently.
8. Data from the OVCAA demonstrates that rather than slowing down students, those who do a Study Abroad program graduate on time if not earlier.
9. We feel that almost doubling of the enrollment despite very limited fiscal and material support is a demonstration that we are on the right track - just think what more support might do.

Cc: Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Aune
Dean Sutton
Program Officer Pearson