



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

MEMORANDUM

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July 25, 2019

TO: Michael Bruno
Provost

FROM: Sarita Rai, Director *Sarita Rai*
John Casken, Chair, Council on Study Abroad *John Casken*

SUBJECT: Study Abroad Program Review One Year Progress Report

This is the Study Abroad Center's one year progress report following your memorandum of July 11, 2018 (revised).

- *"The Study Abroad Center should consider a more diverse disciplinary (especially STEM) and geographic array of offerings which would benefit students by providing greater choice in program and location selection, as well as faculty from units that may not otherwise have been able to engage in Study Abroad programming. This is consistent with my own belief that we need to consider avenues to expand faculty participation to encompass a broader array of disciplines."* (excerpted July 11, 2018 (revised))

1. Study Abroad Program Offerings

- We agree that both students and faculty would greatly benefit from a wide array of disciplines offered in Study Abroad programs, including a variety of geographic locations. Currently, SAC programs are based in East Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania. Although we may not have programs in every country/city in these continents - students are able to design their own programs beyond our offerings - through the "Self-Designed Study Abroad" option. Students have studied in such locations as Egypt, Ghana, Israel, Mexico, Morocco, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates to name a few. Students who participate in the "Self-Designed" option receive similar academic and cross-cultural mentoring as well as financial aid. For details, visit <http://www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu/programs/independent/>
- We are increasing our STEM program offerings. University College Dublin (UCD) is our main University for our STEM and professional programs. We currently offer Business Internship, Nursing, and Public Health Programs at UCD. Starting in Summer 2020, we will be offering Study Abroad programs in Chemistry, Physics, and Architecture. This will enable the College of Natural Sciences' and the School of Architecture's students and faculty members to cultivate deeper engagement in Study Abroad.

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2. Faculty Participation

- In the past 18 months, Faculty members have been able to offer 19 different niche programs ranging from 10 days to 4 weeks in duration through our Faculty-Sponsored Study Tours (FaSST) option. Disciplines taught in the FaSST programs include for example, conservation biology, Hawaiian studies, Pacific Island studies, kinesiology, urban and regional planning disaster management, second language studies internships and practicums, social work practicum, and field schools to name a few. FaSST has provided a venue for faculty to design short-term tours based on the courses that they are teaching, and students have been able to participate in subject matters that they have a passion for through experiential learning activities. Geographic locations have ranged from South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Palau, Philippines, Switzerland, Tahiti, and French Polynesia. Details are available at <http://www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu/fasst/study-tours/>
- This past academic year, 29 faculty participated in Study Abroad programs. Faculty from Food Sciences, SOEST, School of Medicine, for example, have been appointed. Faculty engagement in Study Abroad Programs continues to be very sustained. However, not all faculty members are able to participate, not because of discipline restrictions, but rather because they may have family - who cannot be uprooted for one summer, semester or year.

3. Innovation in Advising and Increase in Student Enrollment

- One of the most successful innovations of the Study Abroad Center has been to place Study Abroad Advisers within Colleges. The first Study Abroad Adviser was placed within the College of Social Sciences ACCESS Advising Center beginning Spring 2018. Another Study Abroad Adviser began in the College of Natural Sciences in the summer of 2018. The Study Abroad Advisers in colleges have full access to students and colleges' advising tool kits and resources. They are also able to provide curriculum mapping to their advisees to include study abroad within their four-year degree time frame. This collaboration has been successful in these colleges as they have also gained an academic adviser.
- The cumulative effect of the aforementioned scaling activities has had a 24 percent increase in student enrollment this past academic year from 293 to 364.

4. SAC Staffing Challenges

Due to a lack of two critical positions (Fiscal Support and a Study Abroad Adviser) the Center has been undergoing a difficult phase. The remaining staff members are overburdened. Currently, there is a search for a new Study Abroad Adviser hire who will then be embedded within the College of A&H/LLL. This will alleviate some of the

pressures on current staff. However, the lack of a Fiscal Support person continues to be problematic for the Center and has seriously hampered its operations.

5. New Program Development and Location

- To add new locations and the appropriate curriculum requires a great deal of investment from the University. There must be an initial request from departmental faculty members. The Center will then conduct student and faculty surveys to ensure that the study abroad program is sustainable with student and faculty participation. There has been a plan to establish a Study Abroad program in Korea for the last five years. As there was no support from the faculty nor was there a critical student base, this plan remained in our back burner. However, this year we have received a request from the department and we are actively exploring the possibility of developing a new Study Abroad program in Seoul, Korea. Toward this end, the University must ensure that critical resources are available at the Study Abroad Center to facilitate and oversee such new operations.

6. On-line and Data-Base Operations

- The Study Abroad Center has long had plans to develop on-line applications. The external reviewers had suggested the purchase of external third party products. However, given the initial costs and problematic sustainability, the Center is developing its own program and application processes with UH IT. Study Abroad students' Personally Identifiable Information (PII) will be stored in-house and maintained fully by the IT department. This is a nine-month project and should be completed by the end of Spring 2020.

The Study Abroad Center will keep moving forward with its innovations and creative programming. These actions will benefit the students and faculty members to achieve educational excellence across the Mānoa campus.

Cc: Laura E. Lyons, Interim Associate VCAA
April Goodwin, Program Officer