MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Michael Bruno, Provost
Laura E. Lyons, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

SUBJECT: Response to Study Abroad Three-Year Progress Report

Thank you for your April 2022 three-year progress report for the 2018-19 program review of Study Abroad. The time that has elapsed since your last progress report has posed unprecedented challenges to higher education, yet it is evident that positive changes have been made in key areas, which is particularly laudable given the heightened restrictions on travel and instructional delivery during the pandemic.

Your ongoing planning and implementation of new programs to meet the needs and desires of our students, despite the challenges of the pandemic, is to be commended. We are impressed by the speed with which the program pivoted to more effective utilization of technology to bridge the COVID divide by enhancing website functionality, utilizing social media, and converting to online delivery for informational meetings, training sessions, advising, class visits, and program evaluation. It is wonderful to see that your fundraising efforts are helping make study abroad opportunities more accessible to all students, and we would encourage you to continue forging these strategic funding partnerships with additional individuals and institutions to provide an even greater selection of locations and programs.

In our previous responses in 2018 and 2019, we had asked you to comment on efforts to increase collaboration across the various study away offices, including Study Abroad, Mānoa International Exchange (MIX) and National Student Exchange (MSE). We have not seen this discussed in your response or progress reports and look forward to seeing this issue addressed in your next program review which is scheduled for the 2022-2023 academic year.
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Laura E. Lyons, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Excellence

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

SUBJECT: Response to Study Abroad Three-Year Progress Report

Thank you for your response concerning our three-year progress report. It is heartening to read that our work was commendable.

We note that according to the Schedule of Review as posted on the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence website, the Study Abroad Center’s comprehensive review is to be conducted during the 2023-24 academic cycle and not during 2022-23. This, indeed, will provide us with the requisite time to conduct our self-study.

In response to your query regarding our progress to collaborate with “various study away offices, including Study Abroad, Mānoa International Exchange (MIX) and National Student Exchange (NSE),” clearly it was an oversight on our part and should have included our joint activities in our three-year progress report. Thus, please see below the Study Abroad Center’s efforts to increase our presence on campus.

Collaboration: SAC, MIX, and NSF

While all three programs send students somewhere away from the islands, these are vastly different enterprises of the University with substantive content and programmatic differences. These were rightly pointed out by both the MIX and NSE Coordinators when the Council Chair reached out to said offices.

SAC, MIX and NSE have jointly offered informational meetings and panel presentations at High School Counselors’ Workshops, Manoa Experience, Welina, Manoa International...
Education Week, New Student Orientation, International Business Organizations and so forth. These events provide students and high school counselors the opportunity to learn about different programs that students may pursue during their sojourn at Mānoa. In addition, the Study Abroad Center sponsors and provides medical and evacuation insurance for MIX students.