

2013-2014

## Standing Committee Annual Report

**Name of Committee or Council:**

International Committee

**Chair**

Dr. Karen D. Sorenson, Professor of French and  
Coordinator of the International Studies Minor

**Meeting Dates in Current Year:**

Meetings of full committee: 9/27 and 3/21 as well as  
numerous subcommittee meetings and events

### Major Actions or Accomplishments:

*The International Committee is charged with reviewing and making recommendations on new study-abroad and exchange program proposals; evaluating and make recommendations on existing programs; serving as a campus voice for state-wide discussions on international policies and programs; assisting in the development of new strategic goals for the university in regards to international programs.*

Following the challenging year of 2012-2013, during which time the former Coordinator of International Education left the university and was replaced for almost a year by a part-time interim Coordinator, the 2013-2014 began with a new Director of International Education, Dr. Marissa Chandler, in place.

The September meeting of the International Committee reviewed new Study Abroad program proposals. An unusually high number of new proposals had been submitted for this review cycle. They were all reviewed carefully by members of the committee, which recommended that three of the new proposals be approved: Study Abroad in China; Study Abroad in West Africa (pending a site visit); and the first International Service-Learning Study Abroad program. The Office of International Education felt that starting up more than three new programs at once (including travel planning, budgeting, program implementation and marketing) was not feasible for the two-person International Education staff, given the current level of support also required by the existing APSU Study Abroad and Exchange programs and consortial programs (such as CCSA, TnCIS and ISEP).

The International Committee also helped plan and to provide active support for various international events scheduled for 2013-2014, including the Study Abroad Fair and International Night. The annual Study Abroad Reunion at Homecoming was not held in Fall 2013, but plans are in place for the event for Fall 2014.

The Committee participated in the mandatory Faculty Orientation for Coordinators of Study Abroad programs (provided by the Office of International Education). We reviewed TnCIS program proposals and made recommendations regarding APSU participation in those programs.

Goals and plans for 2014-2015 include: increasing recruitment of International Students; reviewing and refining Emergency Management practices; implementation of new rubrics and guidelines for the approval of new Study Abroad programs; implementing guidelines for add-on courses or faculty to existing Study Abroad programs; and reviewing existing Study Abroad and Exchange programs.

The Committee continued our focus on best practices in international education, using the Forum for Education Abroad's *Standards of Good Practice for Short-Term Study Abroad* as well as their *Code of Ethics for Education Abroad*.