

## 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: 9/14 and 4/26 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.*

In 2012-2013, the International Committee was faced with a unique set of challenges, following the departure of Tina Rousselot, former Coordinator of International Education, in late July 2012. The Committee met in early September with the interim Coordinator, Christina Kelso, to help make the transition as smooth as possible. The International Committee helped with planning and to provide active support for various projects scheduled for 2012-2013, including the Study Abroad Fair, International Night, and the second annual Study Abroad Reunion at Homecoming. The International Committee also helped host two visiting scholars from Sweden.

Four members of the International Committee served on the search committee, chaired by Dean Webb, for the new Director of International Education, and the members of the International Committee met with the candidates, attended their presentations, and gave feedback to the search committee.

The International Committee worked with the interim Coordinator to identify and help resolve crisis management issues, such as concerns with safety of APSU Exchange students studying in South Korea at a time of increased tensions and threats from North Korea. The International Committee chair and Coordinators met to establish a crisis management team to monitor any State Department advisories and warnings and to address international political situations that might have an impact on APSU students while studying abroad.

Rather than working to change any existing policies or procedures while Ms. Kelso was serving as interim Coordinator, the International Committee focused most of its energy in 2012-2013 on strengthening existing programs.

- The International Committee provided support and participated in training for coordinators of faculty-led programs.
- The International Committee met and worked with the interim Coordinator of International Education to support recruitment for existing Study Abroad 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* (2009) as well as their *Code of Ethics for Education Abroad* (2008).
- The Committee participated in the mandatory Faculty Orientation for directors 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.

In addition, the International Committee met and reviewed proposals for new programs for 2013-2014.

- The International Committee reviewed a proposal for a **new Study Abroad program in Ecuador**. The committee voted to recommend the proposal, with the following two amendments:
  - 1) *That all courses in which APSU students are enrolled as part of the Study Abroad in Ecuador program be taught by faculty with appropriate academic credentials and graduate degrees.*
  - 2) *That a site visit, funded by International Education, be conducted with a satisfactory outcome.*
- The International Committee also reviewed a draft proposal for an **International Service-Learning** program, and recommended that action on the proposal be postponed until September, so that the new Director of International Education, Marissa Chandler, could be involved in the planning.