

Standing Committee Annual Report

Name of Committee or Council:

Study Abroad Committee

Chair

Dr. Karen D. Sorenson (Lang. and Lit.)

Meeting Dates in Current Year:

Meeting of full committee 9/2; 11/18; and 3/24; and numerous subcommittee meetings

Major Actions or Accomplishments:

The primary function of the committee is to promote study abroad as a high impact practice at Austin Peay State University. The committee also seeks to support and encourage more students to participate in academically sound study abroad experiences. In addition, the committee is charged with making policy recommendations and reviewing proposed study abroad programs involving academic credit.

New Study Abroad program proposals

The newly-created Study Abroad Committee (formerly part of the International Standing Committee) was formed in Fall 2016 with Dr. Ozzie Di Paolo-Harrison as chair. The committee met on September 2, 2017 to discuss and make recommendations on two new Study Abroad program proposals in Ireland and Japan. The committee recommended that both programs be approved. In addition, the Study Abroad committee was charged with reviewing and revising the APSU Study Abroad Policy 2:018 (last revised in 2011).

Revisions to APSU's Study Abroad Policy

A subcommittee was formed to work on the revisions to APSU Policy 2:018 (Development and Operation of Off-Campus International Education Programs). In mid-October 2016, the committee chair, Dr. Di Paolo-Harrison, resigned from the committee. On November 1, the Study Abroad Committee was reconstituted with Dr. Karen Sorenson as chair, and with the addition of Dr. Mickey Wadia (CCSA Campus representative and Policy Committee) added as Ex Officio. The Study Abroad Committee met on November 18 for a working meeting to do real-time revisions of the draft policy. The revisions to the policy were made in keeping with APSU's commitment to best practices and guided by the Forum on Education Abroad's *Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad*: <https://forumea.org/resources/standards-of-good-practice/>.

In the following weeks, members of the committee edited the document, incorporating changes, updates, corrections, and edits from Dr. Chandler, Dr. Singleton, Dr. Crosby, and Alexandra Wills, before taking the revised policy to Faculty Senate, Deans' Council, and Academic Council for approval. The newly revised Study Abroad Policy 2:017 (formerly 2:018) was signed by President White, effective March 25, 2017: <https://www.apsu.edu/policy/development-and-operation-campus-international-education-programs-2017>.

Forum on Education Abroad

The committee chair and Dr. Chandler attended the annual meeting of the Forum on Education Abroad (the organization designated by the Department of Justice as the standards-producing organization for the field of Study Abroad), including sessions on assessment, inclusion, standards for short-term programs, and health and safety of participants in the event of terrorism or natural disasters. The committee chair made a brief presentation on the Forum's *Standards* at the Study Abroad Orientation for Faculty Coordinators on April 27.

Looking forward

In its March meeting, the Study Abroad Committee met to discuss revisions to the Study Abroad proposal process for 2017-2018 (Dr. Chandler); the final version of the APSU Study Abroad Policy 2:017 (Dr. Sorenson); Assessment and Student Learning Outcomes for Study Abroad (Dr. Spearman); CDC information on outbreaks of the Zika virus and concerns re: the health of APSU Study Abroad participants (Sorenson); international recruitment efforts (Caroline Clasby); and to make

recommendations for increasing participation in APSU Study Abroad and Exchange programs (whole committee). Concerns were expressed that APSU is the only TBR or former TBR institution to no longer assess a Study Abroad fee (APSU's Study Abroad fee used to be \$10 per student per semester), which was used until recently to fund study abroad scholarships and to fund on-campus co-curricular international events and experiences, particularly for students who are unable to study abroad. It was also noted that APSU allocated \$74,000 in Study Abroad scholarships in 2016-2017, far lower than any other TBR or former TBR institution (the next lowest institution allocated \$180,000 in Study Abroad scholarships). Most students currently receive a travel grant of only \$500; however some Study Abroad programs also received an additional \$500 per student in QEP HIP funding for AY 2016-2017.

In addition to increasing scholarship dollars, the committee recommended that APSU continue to focus on good practices in international education, using the Forum's *Standards* and the Forum's *Code of Ethics for Education Abroad*.