BREAKOUT SESSION MINUTES

Session: Study Abroad

Session Leaders: Shelley Taylor, Iowa State
                 Kelly Koren, Ohio State

Iowa State Structure

   Univ. and college offices of study abroad
   
   Goal: 50% of graduating class have international exp.
   
   23% of last grad class and many more than once international exp.
   
   New major: global resource systems – includes lang. requirement and immersion exp.
   
   Service learning, 19 travel courses, 26 programs
   
   Former: short term ag-tour type courses; now, want more “hands-on exp., more contact with locals – takes fewer students for longer period

Ohio State

   25% of students have studied abroad; 50% is goal
   
   Inc. in short programs – easier with a quarter system
   
   $35K annually in scholarships: $50 per credit hour
   
   New programs: Iceland: environmental issues; Ireland: Animals in Society: tour zoos etc locally and then similar facilities in Ireland; First year experience in Mexico after fall quarter of freshman yr

Consortia

   Why?
   
   Recruiting enough students to make programs successful: ex. In Costa Rica: develop program that many institutions could send students to MOU between institutions and target locations
   
   EARTH faculty want to be involved as more that hosts: 3 week modules; AM or PM courses then EARTH would provide opportunities at opposite time
   
   Multiple faculty from different institutions: UGA/NCSU co-teaching one course and EARTH faculty teaching language and other
Credits: through either UGA or NCSU – then if from other institution course will be transfer course

Ag Idea: National level tuition rather than set by each institution; could this be model for joint international programs too? (Level playing field since all students pay same) Concern is that tuition might be too high.

How to advertise? Will students go to other institutions’ program

Listserv? NASA listserv; electronic model: common website where information can be posted. Who would maintain it and who would financially support it? Need leadership in this area. Need web development, coordination, policy issues regarding credit hours, assessment, etc. Create structure where information will be available – semi-autonomous to start. Then let more intimate partnerships evolve

Mark Rieger volunteered to develop website as clearinghouse for study abroad opportunities

Lessons learned: right partners: accommodation for differences in academic calendars, communication, key leaders keeping people motivated

Headlines in study abroad

Faculty involvement – help students find opportunities. Rewards? Intrinsic Perdue: advisory faculty committee; grants support development of study abroad opportunities; 9-month appointments so can pay faculty extra to teach/supervise course abroad; supportive of P&T. International faculty take students back to their home countries.

Study abroad situation where faculty (6-week) are from abroad institution and send staff (student affairs) or send faculty for 1 week to set up course.

Difficult when just one faculty member wants to do course and course goes away when the that person loses interest

Funding: make sure development officer understands program and works on scholarships; postcards from students while abroad to thank scholarship donors; funding: how much is enough? Mixed model. Even $100 scholarship for every student who goes abroad is appreciated. Dean pays for new passports. Market scholarships: “1/2 airfare; souvenir; etc” Award reception in spring: donors and students (after study abroad experience), their office helps students find scholarships; provide student with budget letter they can take to financial aid office – may mean they can get more financial aid.

Risk and liability – need person to do legwork and work out details so that faculty can focus on teaching the class. At Iowa, their college study abroad office takes care of these
details. Health and safety issue: Ohio, HTH (international health insurance) required ($35/mo)

Role of risk management office? Iowa State – as needed but starting to be more demand for info and processes. Others comments: advisory campus groups oversee programs

Data: Studio Abroad. Program to keep track of students abroad-just being tried

Research abroad and internship abroad

  International exchange internships (Ohio)

  Network across Europe: 15/summer (U. Ark)

  U Georgia: more time and effort, haven’t been able to justify expense; office of global programs; work one-to-one; needs more mature student

Reciprocal internship program in past (Iowa) but destinations versus where people are coming from aren’t same places, also visa issues more difficult; no longer doing this

Assessment/what difference is it making? U Florida: study abroad alumni 20 years ago: more likely to travel again, be language proficient – old data and has not been followed up on; is it more that a vacation? Review of rigor of programs. Zoomerang – an assessment program that will be shared with those here (U. Ohio) National level – several tools: cross-cultural awareness and other goals. Important that each program has learning objectives important for assessment. They work with faculty to help with assessment: pre-flection and reflection.