

Dean's Student Advisory Committee
College of Arts and Sciences
4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Ellison Hall 132

MINUTES

Dean's staff in attendance: Dean Paul B. Bell, Jr., Assistant Dean Joyce Allman, Associate Dean Kelly Damphousse, Associate Dean Edward Sankowski, and Susan Bayliss

Guests: Karen Elmore, Assistant Director, Education Abroad Program

Amy Bourlon, SAC Chair, called the meeting to order.

Dean Bell began the meeting with introductions of the Dean's staff as well as the newly-appointed students to the Dean's SAC Committee.

Dean Bell explained that the purpose of the committee is to give the students an opportunity to voice and discuss issues of concern with the Dean. He encouraged the students to bring any items to his attention at any time via email to the college's email address at cas.ou.edu.

Karen Elmore began her talk on the study abroad program by asking the students for reasons why they may think that studying abroad would not be an option for them. Then, she discussed ways to overcome these barriers, real and perceived, to studying abroad:

Money: Students pay their tuition and fees for the INTL courses at OU, and the cost is the same as any other OU course. Generally, tuition and fees for summer programs are paid before the student leaves, but students studying abroad for a longer time period can take advantage of the tuition payment plan. Any financial aid and scholarships a student is receiving will follow him/her and can be applied to the INTL courses. Further, there are international travel fellowships available. The farther a student travels, the more travel fellowship funding they will receive. As students can only take 12 hours per semester while studying abroad, this can end up being cheaper for students who normally take 15-18 hours per semester. In most cases, the cost of living, i.e., rent, groceries, etc. is less expensive than in the United States.

Time Toward Degree: Some students feel they will have to take classes that don't count toward their degree, but Ms. Elmore pointed out that her office works to make sure that students will be taking the classes they need.

Language Barrier: Many times students can take classes in English, especially in the Scandinavian countries. Students do not need to be fluent in a foreign language. When a student identifies a country of interest and is concerned about a possible language barrier, her office will find out which courses are offered in English.

Scary: The Education Abroad Office will guide students through the process of applying and choosing a country in which to study abroad. They will recommend which countries would be best for the student. They will also help students obtain health insurance in advance. Students are treated well while studying abroad. The university has reciprocal exchange agreements with all of the participating universities, and they have their students studying abroad at OU. While some students will live with host families, especially in South America, other universities have dorms available. Living situations are arranged before the student leaves. Students who are hesitant to be away from home for a full semester may first want to try a summer program. There are several one-month-long, intensive-study, summer programs available.

Amy Bourlon provided updates on three UOSA initiatives. Through the Dry Campus Initiative, UOSA is campaigning to change the current dry campus regulations. Interested students can contact Jordan McGee at jmcgee@ou.edu. The Class Break Time Initiative is still in progress. Interested students can contact Mark Burris at mburris@ou.edu. The + - Grade Change Initiative has not yet been approved. If approved, it will be implemented over a four-year period. Interested students can contact Provost Nancy Mergler at nmergler@ou.edu or Joe Rodgers at jrogers@ou.edu.

Ms. Bourlon also announced that a charity auction will take place in the Union ballroom on Sunday, February 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m. This auction will benefit local, national, and global charities. She further reminded students that the former president of Mexico, Vicente Fox, will be on campus on Monday, February 26.

Following up on comments from the November 15, 2006, meeting, Dean Bell stated that Evolution is a required course for the Zoology standard degree, but it is optional for the Zoology biomedical degree.

Dean Bell asked if the students had any items they would like to discuss and none were given.

Dean Bell adjourned the meeting.