

Global Engagement Council Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2021

Present: Felicia Steele (Chair), Sharon Byrne, Karen Clark, Cecilia Colbeth, Karen Dubrule, Solange Lopes-Murphy, Lizbeth Parra, Sejong Yoon, Christa Olson (ex officio)

Excused with notice: Muskanjot Kaur

I. Review and Approval of [Minutes](#) of December

After introductions were made to welcome new student senator Lizbeth Parra, the committee reviewed and unanimously approved the December minutes.

II. Update from CGE

A. [Global Engagement Happenings](#)

Christa reviewed the email announcement that was recently sent to the faculty and staff. Christa reported that CGE is in the process of moving to 1st floor Green Hall next to Liberal Learning. The first virtual study abroad fair will take place Feb. 8-10. Feb 9th will feature Faculty-led programs and there will be live events throughout the three days. The registration link has been sent out to students and CGE will be able to follow up with students afterwards.

Feb. 1 was the deadline for requests to schedule Fall/Winter 2022 faculty-led programs (those programs that have been previously scheduled and approved) and Christa believes that four programs submitted papers. March 15 is the deadline to request to schedule faculty-led programs for Summer 2022.

CGE and GEC have sent out a 'save the date' for a workshop on global engagement through institutional partnerships

Lastly, TCNJ and Beuth University in Berlin were awarded a German Academic Exchange Service grant by the German government. This comes directly out of Physics Professor David McGee's long-standing work with his counterparts there and this grant will now expand the partnership further.

B. Vetting Program Provider

One of the tasks of the GEC is to consider new third-party education abroad organizations which help expand opportunities for students far beyond TCNJ programs. A preferred provider is vetted and then included in TCNJ advising and the TerraDotta searchable program database. With the closure of the TCNJ Heidelberg Study Center, CGE believes the FUBEST-Berlin program to be a suitable option for study in Germany. The Risk Mitigation group has already reviewed this program and recommends approval. The committee reviewed the vetting documents for FUBEST-Berlin, including the questionnaire and rubric, as presented by Christa, to consider the academic side for the program. FUBEST

primarily works with US institutions and has most syllabi available for review. As a preferred provider, students may not be able to take all of their financial aid with them. As a TCNJ Study Center, students pay as if they stay at TCNJ so all aid is applicable. Everyone at FUBEST is required to take German language which is ideal as students would live in homestays or with other international students at a youth hotel or youth village. Solange asked if we could inquire with other institutions who use this program about their experience. Lizbeth suggested finding student participants to provide feedback on the student experience as well. Karen C. considers the financial aspect as a strong argument to pursue this as a study center. There is a considerable amount of work that takes place to bring on a TCNJ Study Center but it can go forward as both a preferred provider while going the extra mile to move forward as a study center. A motion was made and seconded and **the GEC immediately recommends FUBEST to be listed as a preferred provider while also pursuing the possibility to bring FUBEST on as a TCNJ Study Center.**

C. On Scholarships

As CGE staff member Jennifer Margarito was unable to attend this meeting, Christa gave a very brief overview of possible scholarships including new funding sources, piloting a later deadline but using a single application for all funding possibilities, asking students to elaborate on their eligibility in an essay, and having a financial questionnaire that provides elaboration on additional factors to be taken into consideration that FAFSA does not take into consideration. CGE will continue to use the rubric that the GEC developed for the Access to Study Abroad but these streamlined procedures should make it easier for students and CGE staff.

III. Design [Workshop on Institutional Partnerships](#)

The date selected for the workshop is **Friday, March 19th, 12:30pm** for a faculty/staff workshop on institutional partnerships.

Objectives: to inform the community about TCNJ Institutional Partnerships and who they are. Felicia suggested bringing in CEL coordinators Brittany and/or Raj as to how to take what is being done with local community partners to also be done internationally and incorporate into course design. Marla Jaksch is doing this multi-layer collaboration and would be a good resource (but is not working through an institutional partner). Solange asked if there are existing virtual experiences now possible that faculty can easily incorporate to which Christa replied that we could offer some brainstorming among participants as to what possibilities exist and David McGee will be doing a virtual exchange between his course and a course at Beuth with the German grant they recently received. Sharon is working with Northumbria's nursing and midwifery program to do a virtual exchange as part of 7 institutions including some students from among the institutions participating in a TCNJ course. With faculty oversight, students will

work together on a case and then also come together for some social interaction. Karen D. asked if there would be an RSVP to know how many are interested in attending and Christa replied that we can. Karen D. suggested marketing it broadly by asking the following questions to faculty: Do you have any interest in working with global colleagues or incorporating global experiences into your courses; Are you already working with international colleagues and if so, where?; Do you want to find out more about how CGE can help you utilize TCNJ's global institutional partners for your own academic enrichment or for your course enrichment? This can also guide presenters on how they came to work with our institutional partners. Karen C. suggested having a panel discussion on various types of experiences with institutional partners.

Christa suggested this framework for the workshop:

- Opening - one power point screen on institutional partnerships
- Panel discussion representing different experiences with partners (4-5) from different fields; include faculty and staff [ex. Sharon on virtual exchanges; Cecilia on hosting a guest scholar; Elizabeth Mackie has done an art project with Goethe, Holly Didi-Ogren has been engaged with partners in Japan.]
- Breakout rooms if attendance and time allow or otherwise group q&a

Cecilia expressed concern about the date which follows a spring semester day off but the date was the best option given other scheduling challenges this spring.

Meeting adjourned - next meeting: Wednesday, February 17; 1:30pm

Minutes approved 2/17/2021, prepared by Karen Dubrule