Senate Recommendation
Feb. 21, 2013
Passed Unanimously

The faculty senate strongly encourages the provost to endorse this recommendation and report back to the senate on this matter during its March 2013 meeting.

Faculty Senate Recommendation in Response to the IEC Letter
Concerning a new $150 SAGL Study Abroad Fee

Feb. 20, 2013

According to an International Education Committee document posted for consideration by the Senate Executive Committee on February 11, 2013, the WKU Study Abroad Office, as of January 23, 2013, had not yet made a final decision to implement a $150 fee for all students participating in Faculty Led Study Abroad Programs. On January 30, 2013, an email from Study Abroad written by Dr. Craig Cobane announced the implementation of the fee. While the Faculty Senate understands that new revenues are important to the welfare of the Study Abroad Office, we are concerned that the fee was implemented *after* the pricing structures for FLSA programs were already in place. Because of this, students—who had already been told the total cost of their programs—were suddenly laden with an extra expense they did not anticipate when they made their decisions to study abroad.

Therefore, the Faculty Senate recommends that the Study Abroad Office delay the implementation of this fee until next summer (2014) to avoid any misconceptions by students that faculty or administrators misled them in regard to the costs of their respective study abroad programs.

Response

The Office of the Provost appreciates the concerns expressed in this Senate Recommendation concerning the $150 application fee that was billed to students engaged in faculty-led study abroad programs during Spring 2013 and Summer 2013. In the spirit of this Recommendation, the Study Abroad Office will effectively refund these fees by adding, to the World Topper Scholarship granted to each such student, an amount equal to the fee. The fee structure for faculty-led study-abroad programs from Fall 2013 onward will be reassessed and openly communicated to participants.