

International Education Committee

Thursday February 13, 2025

3:30 to 5:00 pm

Attendees:

Frank Kobayashi – Co Chair

Richard Mowrer – Co Chair - FLC

Riad Bahhur – SCC

Timothy Baker – CRC Student

Alex Kagen - CRC

Kristina Casper-Denman – ARC

Natalie Robinett - SCC

Debi Worth - FLC

Kamau Kinuthia - ARC

Dennis Lee - SCC

Lauren Wagner - CRC

Welcome and Introductions took place

Faculty Exchanges

- Frank provided an update on faculty exchanges. He shared that President Ed Bush was invited by Chancellor Sonya Christian to join a delegation of California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office staff on a visit to Ghana from March 8-14, with the purpose of strengthening international educational partnerships and developing a framework for organizing support services to community colleges that provide international education opportunities to students.

The [November 12, 2024 Minutes](#) were approved.

Updates: College Study Abroad

- Richard reports that his FLC study abroad to Paris is full with students waiting for next year.
- Debi reported on the upcoming FLC study abroad to Japan.
- There was a discussion about the challenges and complexities of managing international student programs, particularly in the context of the pandemic. There was a discussion highlighted the need to be prepared for potential issues, such as visa problems and disruptions, and the importance of supporting students and faculty in case of behavior issues or disruptions. It was also mentioned that there is an increasing trend of trans students changing their genders and the potential implications this could have for students

traveling. It was suggested the potential value of bringing together students from different programs to share experiences.

- The challenges of securing scholarships for students, particularly in the context of the Gilman Scholarship and the Umoja Statewide Scholarship. It was noted that the Gilman Scholarship, which provides \$4,000, is difficult to obtain due to high competition. It was also mentioned that the Umoja Scholarship offers financial aid to African American students for study abroad programs.
- It was suggested to expand the committee's focus to include international student programs.
- It was suggested that the group reach out to the 4 colleges and their international programs as a starting point to learn more.

Updates: District Study Abroad

Frank shared that students are currently in Florence, Italy for the District Study Abroad Program. Frank discussed the progress of the district study abroad program, highlighting the successful selection of faculty for the next two trips to London and Florence.

International Education LRCCD Regulations Update - [R-7151](#)

Frank and Richard shared the progress of International Education LRCCD Regulations - R-7151, which will be reviewed at the next District Academic Senate meeting.

Next steps

- Frank to reach out to the colleges and bring their international program representatives to the next meeting to share information about their programs.
- Richard to look for the document he created with Tammy about the process for individual faculty to create short-term study abroad trips.

- Committee to agendize discussion about using catalogs from different colleges for study abroad courses at the next meeting.