

## **Study Abroad Committee**

### **Meeting Notes**

October 9, 2025

4:00 - 5:00 PM

In-Person – Building 800, Room 822

**Members Present:** Leonor Cadena, Cynthia Cuevas, Pamela Dunsmore, Michael Mangan, Jaime Perez, Hannah Pham (Student Rep), Miguel Powers, Alyssa Sandoval (Student Rep), Stephanie Tran, Carina Valencia, Dani Wilson, Penn Wu

**Members Not Present:** Naveen Kanal, Citlally Santana

#### **i. Coordinator Updates**

##### **a. Program Updates**

- i. **Paris, France – Winter 2026:** Nineteen students have paid the \$450 deposit to confirm their participation in the program. Several students withdrew as the deposit deadline approached. Mike contacted AIFS to inquire about the possibility of adding students from the waitlist after the AIFS deposit deadline.
- ii. **Seville, Spain – Spring 2026:** Mike has been collaborating with faculty to conduct student interviews this past week. Leonor Cadena mentioned a Study Abroad Canvas page that includes a written assignment for online students to review study abroad programs and information.
- iii. **Community Program – Spring Break 2026:** The program has twenty-eight participants, with two recent withdrawals. Justin Campbell will co-lead the Community Program, providing insight into the literary works of James Baldwin.
- iv. **Panama City, Panama – Summer 2026:** Mike shared that the vendor for the Panama program will be the Study Abroad Association (SAA) instead of AIFS. SAA offers destinations that are not available through AIFS. Information sessions are scheduled for the week of October 13.

#### **ii. Faculty Proposals & Recruitment**

##### **a. Faculty Proposal Meet & Greet:**

- i. Mike will host a faculty meet and greet on Friday, November 7, 2025, from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM in Building 2400, Room 210. Five Fullerton College and Cypress College faculty have RSVP'd. The event will focus on helping faculty strengthen their proposals and provide networking opportunities for those interested in leading semester-length programs.
- ii. Mike also submitted a Flex Day seminar proposal for Spring 2026. Faculty will have two weeks after the Flex Day session to submit their Study Abroad proposals, which are due Tuesday, February 17, 2026. Faculty interviews are scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2026.

- iii. Mike invited committee members to join the subcommittee that will review faculty proposals and interview candidates. Stephanie Tran volunteered to serve.
- iii. **Study Abroad Fundraiser:** Mike thanked committee members who have already signed up to support the upcoming fundraiser. Donations are still needed for raffle prizes, a silent auction, and the wine pull (bottles valued at \$25 or more). Committee members are encouraged to seek fundraiser donations from local businesses and community partners.
  - a. Student participants will attend the event to share their study abroad experiences. The fundraiser will take place on Thursday, November 20, from 6:00–9:00 PM in Building 200, Rooms 224/226/228.
  - b. Mike encouraged the committee to purchase tickets—\$75 through November 5 and \$90 starting November 6.
  - c. Pamela Dunsmore offered to assist with fundraiser set-up and clean-up.
- iv. **Academic Success Day Tabling:** Mike asked the committee to support the tabling event on Tuesday, November 4, from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM. The theme is Games, Crafts, and Fall Fun, and the Study Abroad Program will participate to promote the upcoming 2026 programs. Tables will be set up at the library entrance. Faculty and staff are encouraged to bring arts & crafts and giveaway prizes for students.
- v. **Study Abroad Reunion - Summer 2025 Students:** Paulette Chaffee hosted a reunion dinner on September 25, 2025, at Round Table Pizza for summer 2025 students. Twelve students attended, along with Michael Mangan, Jaelyn Maggini, and Dani Wilson. The reunion event was featured in the FC Weekly newsletter.
- vi. **Additional Discussion Topics:**
  - a. **London Site Visit:** Mike will visit London, England the week of October 21 to do a site inspection for the fall 2025 program. Mike will also meet with AIFS staff and visit the AIFS main office.
  - b. **Group Interviews:** Mike noted that student interviews have transitioned from one-on-one to group interviews due to the large number of upcoming programs. Group interviews allow students to build on each other's responses, but the committee discussed potential concerns.
    - i. Alyssa Sandoval shared that some students may feel uncomfortable sharing personal information in a group setting.
    - ii. Cynthia Guardado suggested providing interview questions in advance to promote equity and provide time for students to prepare. She emphasized the goal of creating a conversational, comfortable environment for the students.
    - iii. The committee agreed to reconsider the term “interview” and explore a tiered approach, where general questions are shared publicly and more personal ones are addressed privately.
    - iv. Mike will continue evaluating the format to ensure it effectively supports student assessment.
  - c. **STEM Study Abroad Programs:** Hannah Pham raised concerns about limited study abroad options for STEM students.

- i. Dani and Mike explained that programs are based on faculty proposals, and STEM courses are often difficult to adapt abroad due to lab facility limitations.
  - ii. Leonor Cadena shared an example of teaching biological anthropology abroad without a lab component.
  - iii. The committee emphasized the need for classroom outreach in STEM courses to encourage student participation and faculty to submit STEM related proposals.
  - iv. Hannah suggested sharing this context with the Associated Students to clarify how study abroad programs and courses are selected.
- vii. **Acceptance Email and Interview Follow-up:** Mike is considering revising the interview questions to better assess student readiness. The committee discussed updates to the acceptance email, including adding an option for students to schedule a one-on-one follow-up meeting.
- viii. **Upcoming Campus Events:**
  - a. **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cypress College Festival:** Thursday, October 16, 2025, 10:45 AM - 5:30 PM. Mike will be unavailable to attend the event and will ask Cypress College faculty to assist with tabling.
  - b. **Connect2Cypress Event:** Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Mike will be in London, Carina will assist with the event.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.