

**Study Abroad Committee**  
Meeting Notes  
February 12, 2026  
4:00 - 5:00 PM  
In-Person – Building 800, Room 822

**Members Present:** Michael Mangan, Dani Wilson, Carina Valencia, Pamela Dunsmore, Cynthia Guardado, Naveen Kanal, Miguel Powers, Alyssa Sandoval, Stephanie Tran, Penn Wu

**Members Not Present:** Citlally Santana, Hannah Pham, Audrey Baltazar, Jaime Perez

**1) Coordinator Updates**

- a) Paris Site Visit – Mike’s Report
  - i) The Winter 2026 Paris program was successful and well executed from beginning to end. The James Baldwin curriculum and faculty Justin Campbell was very well received by participating students. Classrooms and student housing at FIAP were conveniently located in the same building, which is very convenient.
  - ii) 8 out of 20 students completed the post-program survey. Survey respondents expressed some dissatisfaction with FIAP; however, Mike also received informal positive feedback directly from several students.
  - iii) Paris experienced very cold weather. Justin and several students became ill. This was the first winter intersession program offered since January 2020.
  - iv) Students reported that the itinerary felt overbooked. For future programs, consider building in additional free time for students at the outset. Dani Wilson explained that AIFS intentionally schedules busy first days to help students adjust to the time difference. However, she agreed that it is something to consider and work to remedy.

**2) 2026 Program Updates**

- a) Paris, France – Winter 2026
  - i) 20 students participated.
- b) Seville, Spain – Spring 2026
  - i) 32 students enrolled.
  - ii) Mike conducted the paper signing and reported that students are excited about the program.
- c) Berlin, Germany – Summer 2026
  - i) 29 accepted, 11 applicants, 4 waitlisted
  - ii) No concerns about this program currently.
- d) Kyoto, Japan – Summer 2026
  - i) 27 accepted, 4 provisional, 20 applicants, 8 waitlisted
  - ii) No concerns about this program currently.
- e) Grenoble, France – Summer 2026
  - i) 6 applicants, 5 accepted
  - ii) Concerns due to low number of applicants.

- f) Panama City, Panama – Summer 2026
  - i) 8 applicants, 4 accepted
  - ii) Concerns due to low number of applicants
  - iii) Information session scheduled for February 23.
- g) Rome, Italy – Fall 2026
  - i) 27 accepted, 10 provisional, 15 applicants, 2 waitlisted
  - ii) No concerns about this program currently.
- h) Community Program Update
  - i) The program was canceled due to low enrollment. AIFS was highly flexible and collaborative; however, the program was not financially viable. It started with 35 participants and a waitlist, and by the time the deposit was due, it dropped to 4 participants. Mike suggested increasing the deposit amount in the future. The committee will revisit the possibility of relaunching the program in the near future.

### **3) 2027 Program Updates**

- a) Mike will continue to do classroom visits to promote upcoming 2027 programs. General flyers are available. Summer and Fall 2027 posters are forthcoming.
- b) Rome, Italy – Winter 2027
  - i) 2 applicants
- c) Sydney, Australia – Winter 2027
- d) Buenos Aires, Argentina – Winter 2027
- e) Nice, France – Spring 2027
  - i) 2 applicants
  - ii) Update provided regarding student fees and additional costs for single occupancy housing.
  - iii) Posters distributed to Cypress faculty. Stephanie Tran will assist with posting materials in the Humanities Building at Cypress College.
- f) Paris, France – Summer 2027
- g) Seoul, South Korea – Summer 2027
- h) London, England – Fall 2027

### **4) Discussion Item: Faculty Proposal Timing Guidelines**

- a) Mike proposed implementing a policy requiring faculty to wait until completion of their current study abroad program before submitting a new proposal. For example: If a faculty member leads a program in Spring 2026, they would need to wait until 2027 to submit another proposal. This guideline would not apply to faculty submitting proposals for 2028 programs. The intention is to formalize and codify previously introduced guidelines. The committee will revisit this item and hold a vote during the March meeting.
- b) Additional Comment:
  - i) Cynthia raised the importance of diversifying faculty who lead study abroad programs.
  - ii) The committee will explore this further during the Fall 2026 program review.
  - iii) Cynthia suggested requesting faculty demographic data from OIE to inform the discussion.

### **5) London Program Review – Fall 2025**

- a) Josh Ashenmiller and Danielle Fouquette, faculty leaders for the Fall 2025 London program, presented their program overview. Faculty are required to

submit written reports and are invited (but not required) to present to the committee.

- b) Danielle and Josh reported that students had difficulty attending class consistently. Contributing factors included homestay locations, local traffic, and construction issues beyond control. Josh noted significant changes compared to when he led the London program in Fall 2019.
- c) Students later expressed that they would have preferred paying more to stay in centrally located student housing rather than homestays. Students who paid the additional fee for the student housing reported more positive experiences. For future programs, it is recommended to clearly communicate the value of centrally located housing options to students who are considering participating in future London, England programs.
- d) Josh and Danielle reported minor scheduling issues that occurred. A newer AIFS program manager was on-site. AIFS provided logistical support and assistance with event coordination. Need to reinforce messaging that study abroad is an academic experience—not simply travel abroad.

## **6) Gilman Workshops**

- a) Mike will host two workshops on February 18, 2026, for students interested in applying for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

### **I. Spring 2026 Study Abroad Committee Meetings**

- Thursday, February 12, 2026
- Thursday, March 12, 2026
- Thursday, April 9, 2026
- Thursday, March 14, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.