

Committee Recommendation regarding Policy 2:018, “Development and Operation of Off-Campus International Educational Programs”

Revised Draft, September 18, 2010
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Concerns have been raised by faculty regarding two areas of Policy 2:018: Section II: B. and Section IV:A.

Section II:B. states, “Non-enrolled minor children and spouses of program faculty and participants are not permitted to participate in APSU sponsored activities in study-abroad and exchange programs including group transportation to the host country, group travel within the host country, and group excursion activities. APSU Policy 3:032 Minors on Campus policy is applicable to study abroad campus locations and classrooms.”

TBR policy 2:08:10:00 states that “Individual institutions must establish policies as to the suitability of accompanying spouses and minor children of participants.” This means that APSU has some flexibility regarding this issue. It only makes sense that all participants not directly involved in the coordination, instruction, or chaperoning of the overseas program must be subject to the same fees as enrolled students in order to participate in program activities. The Senate Academic Red Committee recommends that the university consider revising this part of the policy to allow in certain instances the enrollment of adult family members of faculty, staff, or enrolled students, as well as alumni, in study abroad programs as “special students” who may then audit the course, subject to all related program fees and agree to abide by the rules of the program. Such individuals would not qualify for financial aid or grants reserved for fully matriculated students, and state funds will not be used for family travel expenses or curricular activities.

Section IV: A states, “ All APSU policies regarding students remain in full effect during all APSU sponsored international education programs including, but not limited to APSU Policy 3:013 Student behavior that violates the student code of conduct may result in any reasonable sanction up to and including removal from the program.”

The Senate Academic Red Committee wishes to express concern with the university’s current interpretation of this clause, that applies the enforcement of university code of conduct 24-hours a day, even for activities that students who live on campus are legally and freely able to engage in when off campus, for example, alcohol consumption, use of tobacco products, etc. We recommend that the interpretation of this clause take a common sense approach to the study abroad situation, that the students, faculty and staff involved in the program overseas may have personal time when they are not engaged in activities related to the curriculum of the program. What individuals do during such free time, i.e. outside of scheduled curricular activities, should be left to their discretion, so long as their conduct is neither illegal in the host country nor disgraceful to the study abroad program or the university, and that there will be no tolerance for unacceptable behavior to include but not to be limited to: sexual harassment, public drunkenness, drug use or possession, lewdness, public nudity, assault, vandalism, theft, and any other action that potentially endangers the individual or others. We concur with the concluding statement that such inappropriate behavior “may result in any reasonable sanction up to and including removal from the program.”