Subcommittee European Center at Talloires
Annual Report, submitted May 14, 2004
By George Ellmore and Emese Soos (Co-chairs of the Subcommittee)

The academic and fiscal health of Tufts in Talloires (TinT) can be assessed by this report in conjunction with the Annual Report from Administrative Director Gabriella Goldstein.

The Subcommittee met twice in AY 03-04. In addition, Co-chairs met once with the ASE Executive Committee.

September 24, 2003. Subcommittee evaluated 30 courses proposed for TinT 2004. Of these, 17 were recommended by the Subcommittee as having substantial academic merit proposal quality. The Subcommittee’s advice was taken up by TinT Directors who used additional criteria (including balance among disciplines, student evaluations, logistics, marketability) to arrive at 10 courses to offer in 2004.

To evaluate the thirty courses, we used the following procedure. We designed it to take advantage of the experience of colleagues who have already taught in Talloires, while preventing conflicts of interest.

Rationale: Over the years we have found that students are attracted to courses in 4 recognizable academic fields, while a variety of other courses fill out and balance the course offerings.

1) We grouped courses into the following five categories:
   - IR oriented social sciences (EC30, EIB E243, PHIL128, PS 159, PS 170)
   - French language, literature and culture (FR 21/22, 32/92/91/191, 75)
   - Science, engineering, environment (ANAT101, ANTH149, BIO97, CEE194, ENV105, MPH175)
   - Visual arts (FAH9)
   - Other (AMST192, CD 62 & 143, ENG 11, 91E, 192A, JS 97, PHIL92, PJS90)

   These categories allowed us to compare courses likely to attract the same set of students, and get a better handle on their relative merits.

2) We used three grades for proposed courses:
   • Sound and most likely to appeal
   • Sound but less likely to appeal
   • Not viable
To insure a sufficient number of voting members and yet to preserve fairness, we excluded faculty who submitted proposals ONLY from the category (or categories) into which his/her courses fell. Therefore nobody wrote ballots for any course competing with his/her own, yet the experience of those who already taught in Talloires and hope to do so again contributed to the process.

Faculty proposing courses in that area being discussed stepped out of the room while that category was considered and balloted. They then returned to continue discussion of another category.

January 28, 2004. Emese Soos and George Ellmore (Co-chairs of the Subcommittee) met with ASE Executive Committee to discuss course solicitation and selection procedures for TinT. To encourage wider faculty involvement in TinT, the Executive Committee suggested 1) informational meetings for faculty interested in teaching at Talloires, 2) expanded “tips to applicants” on the TinT website, 3) broadening activities on the Talloires campus to include more faculty (such as supporting research stays, and/or professional conferences organized by Tufts faculty).

March 17, 2004. Subcommittee met to clarify the makeup of the Subcommittee, and the number of members allowed to cast ballots evaluating courses. As designated by bylaw, the Subcommittee advises the (Administrative) Director of the European Center (EC), by recommending topics and faculty for teaching in Talloires. Normally the Subcommittee is composed of 8 Faculty (from across disciplines), the Administrative Director of EC, and 6 non-voting ex officio members (administrators of relevant programs and offices).

According to ASE Standing Bylaw, nine (9) of the fifteen Subcommittee members may cast ballots to evaluate courses in the fall (Sept) meeting. Balloters consist of the 8 faculty members (including Co-chairs), plus the 1 Administrative Director (Gabriella Goldstein). This year’s Academic Director, David Gute, was one of the 8 faculty members.

This year, faculty members were recused from discussion and casting ballots related to their own proposed course or others in the same academic category (Soc. Sci, Nat. Sci, Humanities, etc).

Student response to 2004 offerings was brisk. Some courses closed out as early as January 2004, and the entire TinT Program closed two weeks before the March 1 deadline, enrolling a capacity 93 students. About 120 students had wanted to attend TinT, allowing the program some selectivity in its admissions process.