Faculty SubCommittee for the European Center in Talloires  
2011-2012

This committee meets each year to review the activities of the European Center in Talloires and make recommendations for the upcoming Tufts in Talloires program.

1. Meeting of the Subcommittee on the European Center in Talloires

Kathleen Camara, Faculty chair of The Subcommittee on the European Center in Talloires called the subcommittee together on October 18, 2011. In addition to reviewing the previous summer’s activities in Talloires, the purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the course proposals for Tufts in Talloires 2012 and eliminate from consideration any proposals that did not seem appropriate for Talloires.

Present at the meeting on October 18th were:
  Kathleen Camara, Talloires Committee Chair, Child Development
  Gabriella Goldstein, Director, European Center
  Drusilla Brown, International Relations, Ex-Officio
  Howard Malchow, History
  Dennis Rasmussen, Political Science
  Loring Tu, Mathematics
  Steven Bailey, Anthropology
  Tracy Pearce, Romance Languages
  Heather Curtis, Religion
  Jerry Meldon, Chemical Engineering
  Sheila Bayne, Study Abroad, Ex-Officio

2. Course proposals

The following is a list of the 12 course proposals that were submitted for review by the Subcommittee:

- Classics 187 – “History and Archeology of France Under the Roman Empire” – Bruce Hitchner
- Economics 35 – “Economic Development” – Onur Akmehmet
- Eng Science 60 – “Appropriate Technology in Sustainable Engineering” – Douglas Matson
- English 06 - “Creative Writing: Poetry” – Rebecca Kaiser Gibson
- English 10 – “Non Fiction Writing” – Michael Ullman
- Environmental Studies 105 – “Flowers of the Alps” – George Ellmore
- French 21/ French 22 – “Comnuniquons en Français en France” – Tracy Pearce
- Modern Language 96 – “Romance Linguistics” – John Julian
- Physics 06 – “Physics for Humanists” – Krzysztof Sliwa and Pierre-Hugues Beauchemin

One course proposal was withdrawn on the day before the meeting, leaving only 11 proposals.

Gabriella Goldstein reported that during the period leading up to the deadline, there were also a number of email inquiries from Faculty who were very interested in proposing a course for Tufts in Talloires but who, for personal and/or professional reasons, decided not to send in a proposal for 2012. Reasons included tenure preparation, high school graduations, previous professional commitments etc.
Faculty were sent electronic copies of each of the course proposals by email previous to the meeting along with guidelines to use for assessing each proposal. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate the course proposals by discussing the following points:

- The overall preparation of the proposal
- The integrity and organization of the proposed course
- The level and character of academic assignments in the course and whether or not the assignments will allow the instructor to adequately evaluate student performance
- The degree to which the course proposes to utilize the Talloires/Haute Savoie/European Region
- Potential student interest in this course
- Finally, members were asked to give an overall ranking of the proposed course’s academic integrity and appropriateness for the Tufts in Talloires Program

A few things to note:
The Committee is not expected to select the slate of courses for Talloires – only to evaluate the proposals and then indicate whether they would highly recommend, recommend or not recommend the proposal for consideration. (Faculty indicate via anonymous vote. Any committee members who have proposed a course are asked to leave the room during the discussion of their course.)

The actual selection of courses is made from the courses that are recommended by the majority vote of the committee members. The selection is done by a smaller committee (in the past made up of the Director of the European Center, the Director of Summer Session and the former Dean of Tisch College).

During the meeting, there were several items that were discussed:

1. Kathleen Camara was unanimously voted in as Subcommittee Chairperson.
2. Gabriella Goldstein, the European Center director presented an overview of the 2011 season and also reported on the courses that had been selected from the 2011 Tufts in Talloires program.
3. The Subcommittee expressed concern that there were so few course proposals. Outreach was discussed as was the fact that family/life/financial/professional circumstances can make it difficult to be in Talloires for six weeks. Gabriella Goldstein described the following outreach activities:
   a. On September 12 and October 4, 2011 the secretary of the Faculty, Jillian Dubman sent out announcements to the AS&E Faculty distribution lists inviting Faculty to consider proposing a course for the 2012 Tufts in Talloires program. The announcement directed faculty to Program information and Proposal forms on the Tufts European Center Website
   b. Flyers inviting faculty to propose a course for the 2012 Tufts in Talloires program were sent to all AS&E Department managers to be posted or copied and distributed
   c. Emails were sent to veteran Tufts in Talloires faculty with the AS&E announcement
4. There was discussion about how to manage course proposals submitted by members of the subcommittee. For this specific meeting, only faculty member Tracy Pearce had submitted a course proposal. The Subcommittee placed the discussion about her course as the last item and Professor Pearce left the meeting for this discussion. There were suggestions that faculty members who propose a course should remove themselves from the committee deliberations, but no resolution was reached.
5. There was a lengthy discussion around concerns about a specific instructor expressed by one of the Committee members. Kathleen Camara volunteered to look into this and to discuss these concerns with the appropriate Department to resolve the concerns. (After conversations with the Department Chair and various faculty, the issue was resolved.)

The 11 courses were evaluated by the group and ultimately, ten were voted on and forwarded for approval. Because the Tufts in Talloires Program has only ten course offerings for undergraduates, the second step selection committee was rendered moot and those courses put forward by the committee were accepted for the 2012 Tufts in Talloires Program.