Annual Report of the SubCommittee of the European Center in Talloires for 2012-2013

Submitted by Kathleen A. Camara, Chair 2012-2013 on September 27, in consultation with Gabriella Goldstein, Director, Tufts European Center at Talloires

The committee meets each year to review the activities of the European Center in Talloires and to make recommendations for the 2013 Tufts in Talloires summer program.

Kathleen Camara, Faculty chair of The Subcommittee on the European Center in Talloires for 2011-12 called the subcommittee together on October 24, 2012 after the return from Talloires of Director Gabriella Goldstein. Present at the meeting on October 24th were: Kate Camara, Chair, Child Development; Gabriella Goldstein, Director, European Center; Dennis Rasmussen, Political Science; Loring Tu, Mathematics; Tracy Pearce, Romance Languages; Heather Curtis, Religion; Sheila Bayne, Study Abroad, Ex-Officio; Sean Recroft, Summer Session; and John Barker, Dean, Student Services.

Agenda for the Subcommittee Meeting on 10/24/12
  (1) Elect a chair for 2012-13
  (2) Review last spring's and the summer activities
  (3) Finalize policies and procedures for voting on course proposals for 2013
  (4) Review proposals submitted for the 2013 Academic Program at Talloires and make recommendations to Gabriella Goldstein, Director
  (5) Discuss any new business

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 2013 and eliminate from consideration any proposals that did not seem appropriate for Talloires.

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

*Classics 186 – “France under the Roman Empire” - Bruce Hitchner
*Education 130 – “Human Development and Learning” - Erin Seaton
*Engineering Science 60 – “Appropriate Technology in Sustainable Engineering” – Doug Matson
*English 06 – “Your Poetry in Talloires” - Rebecca Kaiser Gibson
*English 10 – “Non-Fiction Writing” - Michael Ullman
Subcommittee members were sent electronic copies of each of the course proposals by email previous to the meeting along with guidelines and rating forms 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

It was explained to the Committee by the Committee Chair and Director of European Programs that 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 indicated their ratings via anonymous voting. Each year, committee members who have proposed a course for that year are asked to leave the room during the discussion of their course.

The selection of courses is made from the courses that are recommended by the majority vote of the committee members. The final 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 and decided:

1. Kate Camara was unanimously voted in as Subcommittee Chairperson for 2012-13.
2. Gabriella Goldstein, the European Center director presented an overview of the 2012 season and also reported on the courses that had been selected from the 2012 Tufts in Talloires program.
3. Once again, 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 made that perhaps faculty members who propose a course should recuse themselves from the committee, but there was not consensus about this matter. Some members thought that anyone proposing a course for the given year should not be a member of the Committee, but others felt that if that restriction was placed, we would lose members on the Committee who have valuable experience and knowledge of Talloires that are important to the Committee’s functions and decisions. No resolution was reached and it was agreed to discuss this again at the start of the 2013-14 academic year.

The 19 course proposals were evaluated by the group and 12 were voted to go forward for consideration. Of those twelve, *eleven* were selected to be offered in Talloires. Normally there are only 10 courses offered in Talloires but where the student interest has been so high and the course proposals were strong, we decided to take on an 11th course for 2013.

The eleven courses that were selected for Tufts in Talloires 2013 were:

Classics 186 – “France under the Roman Empire” - Bruce Hitchner
Engineering Science 60 – “Appropriate Technology in Sustainable Engineering” - Doug Matson
English 10 – “Non-Fiction Writing” - Michael Ullman
Environmental Studies 105 – “Flowers of the Alps” - George Ellmore
French 21/22 –“Communication, Culture et Couleur Locale: FR 21/22 en France”–Tracy Pearce
French 42 – “The Evolution of the Arts in France During the Belle Epoque” - Emese Soos
Music 97/150 - “Music, France and Revolution” - Jane Bernstein
Physics 06 - “Physics for Humanists” - Hugo Beauchemin
Religion 192/History 176 – “Religion in France from Rome to Rousseau” - Heather Curtis

Of the courses that were selected, three were new to Talloires. Two of the faculty had never taught in Talloires before. Those that were repeat courses had all demonstrated strong success in previous years (enrollment and positive student evaluations).
FOLLOW-UP REPORT: For the 2013 summer program of Tufts in Talloires, 94 students were due to participate and enrollments were spread evenly among the 11 courses.

Because of visa issues, 12 international students (who would have needed short-stay visas to come into France) were not able to attend the program and so the program had a total of 82 students. No single course was affected by this change and the enrollment distribution was still relatively even.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Camara, Ph.D.
Chair, Subcommittee for European Program in Talloires
2012-2013