Subcommittee on Foreign Programs
Annual Committee Report (AY 2011-2012)
Submitted by Prof. George Ellmore, Chair
May 8, 2012

Subcommittee on Foreign Programs (SFP) met 5 times in Academic Year 2011-12.

Our general task is to oversee the study-abroad options available to Tufts students, either through Tufts study-abroad programs, or through non-Tufts programs.

We reviewed general criteria for approval of non-Tufts study-abroad programs, we reviewed student petitions to attend such programs, and we updated the list of non-Tufts study-abroad programs sanctioned by this Committee. We look for programs lasting 13 weeks or more that offer an academically sound experience in a cultural context differing significantly from that of the US college environment. Most of our information comes from Tufts student comments, and from research (often on-site) by Dr. Sheila Bayne and by Mr. Brian Libby, Foreign Study Advisor.

Our voting procedure was formalized in October 11. It is as follows: “The SFP will make decisions on student petitions and other matters according to a majority of votes cast during the meeting. Members can either vote ‘yes’ or ‘no’, or abstain from voting. An abstention is not a vote.”

In Fall 2011, 15 student petitions were considered. Ten (10) were approved. In Spring 2012, 12 student petitions were considered. Nine (9) were approved.

Political unrest associated with “Arab Spring” uprisings in the Arab world has made study-abroad programs in Egypt and Syria unrealistic. In response, student petitions to attend programs in Jordan and Morocco are increasing.

Tufts-in-London/Oxford: The SFP met with Dr. Simon Steel, Resident Director. He told us that 90% of US students studying abroad in London opt for one semester only. In response, Tufts is now trying a 1-semester option with a new partner institution, Royal Holloway (AY 2011-12).

Tufts-in-Paris: Monique Fecteau, Resident Director for the past 8 years, is moving to a new position at Aix-en-Provence. Tufts is searching for a new Resident Director that will support our Tufts-in-Paris students as early as Fall 2012.

The largest Tufts study-abroad program this year was Tufts-in-Madrid which attracted 58 Tufts students.

Prof. John Fyler (English Dept) was elected to serve as Chair of SFP in AY 2012-13.

Respectfully submitted, Prof. George Ellmore  May 8, 2012