Annual Report of the Subcommittee on Foreign Programs (EPC) for 2014-15

This subcommittee of EPC oversees the study abroad options available to our students, in non-Tufts programs as well as the ones that we sponsor. We review the approved list of non-Tufts programs, adding to or deleting from that list when appropriate. We also vote on student petitions to attend programs that we have not yet approved, relying on extensive research by the Foreign Study Advisor Brian Libby of the Programs Abroad office, who summarizes the issues for us. Our criteria include a minimum of thirteen weeks of academic study, a final transcript issued by an accredited, degree-granting institution, and (with a couple of recent exceptions) a program based in a single country, in order to maximize cultural immersion.

This past year we met four times, twice in the fall and twice in the spring semester. Much of our business was routine, though we heard about and discussed the continuing repercussions on foreign programs of unrest in the Middle East, and health issues in West Africa. About 550 Tufts undergraduates study abroad every year (43% of juniors), with about a third in Tufts programs, and two-thirds in non-Tufts programs. More and more students seem to opt for one-semester rather than full-year programs; and our introduction of such a possibility in the United Kingdom, as part of our new association with Royal Holloway College, has proved to be an excellent decision.

In 2014-15, our ten Tufts programs enrolled 195 students, for either one semester or the full year, and another 311 students enrolled in non-Tufts programs, usually for one semester. (The numbers for 2013-14 were 191 and 358.)

Nora Matland has replaced Stephanie Simpson-White as Program Assistant; she, Brian Libby (Foreign Study Advisor), and Melanie Armstrong (Program Specialist), have been resourceful, hard-working, and notably competent. I have been grateful for their help in this, my final year on the committee; and I know that Sheila Bayne, Director of Tufts Programs Abroad, shares my appreciation of their work.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fyler, Chair
Professor of English

Subcommittee members:

Natalya Baldyga (Drama and Dance)
Bruce Boghosian (Mathematics)
David Denby (Philosophy)
John Fyler (English)
Charles Inouye (GRALL)
Elena Naumova (Civil and Environmental Engineering)
Christiana Olfert (Philosophy)
Peter Probst (Art and Art History)
Xueping Zhong (GRALL)

Ex officio:

Sheila Bayne, Dean
Drusilla Brown (International Relations)
Jane Etish-Andrews (International Center)
Gabriella Goldstein (European Center)