

MU STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN COUNTRIES WITH REGIONAL TRAVEL WARNINGS

BACKGROUND: By UM Collected Rules and Regulations, the Director of the International Center must review and approve all MU-sponsored (MU Faculty-led) study abroad programs to assure 1) the health and safety of involved students (also faculty and staff) and 2) emergency preparedness and crisis response. To comply with these policies, MU-led study abroad programs do not go to countries with U.S. State Department travel warnings, regardless of whether the travel warning applies to the entire country or to only certain regions of the country.

PROBLEM: There is an increasing tendency for the State Department to issue travel warnings which limit travel to specific regions of some countries. Current student travel policies prevent our students and faculty from participating in MU-sponsored study abroad programs in countries, such as Mexico, Colombia, and Israel, for which the State Department has issued travel warnings for only specific regions.

SOLUTION: Dr. Jim Scott, Director of the MU International Center, would like to make changes in the current MU student travel policies, so as to accept proposals for MU faculty-led study abroad programs in countries with regional travel restrictions. Such proposals would first need to be approved for their curricular value by program faculty, and ultimately, by CUE and Faculty Council. However, once approved for possible inclusion in the study abroad curriculum, Dr. Scott would like a committee to assist him in his CRR mandated review and approval of these proposals, with respect to required assurances of student (faculty and staff also) health and safety, as well as emergency preparedness and crisis management. Such a committee would be chaired by the Director of the International Center and include representatives of MU faculty, MU Finance, UM General Counsel, and UM Office of Risk Management.

ACTION ITEM: In the interest of shared governance, Dr. Scott would like Faculty Council endorsement of these proposed changes.

The Faculty Council Student Affairs Committee moves that the MU Faculty Council on University Policy endorse changes in current MU student travel policies (labeled as 1 and 2 below) , which were proposed by the Director of the MU International Center:

- 1. Allow acceptance and curricular review of proposals for MU faculty-led (MU-sponsored) study abroad programs in countries where the U.S. State Department has issued travel warnings for specific regions**
- 2. Require additional review of such proposals after approval for inclusion in the study abroad curriculum, in order to assure the health and safety of participants, as well as emergency preparedness and crisis management capabilities, by a committee comprised of the Director of the MU International Center (Chair) and at least three representatives of MU Faculty, as well as individual representatives of MU Finance, UM General Counsel, and the UM Office of Risk Management.**