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Recommendation #27: Tuition revenue associated with study abroad programs

Issue number: T-25, T-46

Background

The Resource Management Model prescribes that tuition revenue currently managed within the General Fund be distributed formulaically to the colleges. Departments across the campus administer a variety of study abroad programs that offer individual study abroad courses and group study abroad courses.

Individual Study Abroad Courses

Currently, tuition revenue generated from individual study abroad courses is managed within the General Fund. Any revenue generated from course program fees associated with an individual study abroad course is distributed directly to the unit that has direct administrative responsibility for the program (academic department, college administrative office or Study Abroad Center).

Group Study Abroad Courses

Currently, tuition revenue generated from group study abroad courses is managed outside the General Fund. Any revenue generated from course program fees associated with an individual study abroad course is distributed directly to the unit that has direct administrative responsibility for the program (academic department, college administrative office or Study Abroad Center).

Currently, there are over 500 group study abroad course sections and all but 14 of those sections have course program fees. There are cases where a course may have a section offered as a group study abroad course and another section offered as an individual study abroad course.

Group Study Abroad Aid

An institutional policy was put into place in 1997 that provides the Study Abroad Center the ability to award Study Abroad Aid equal to 90% of the net tuition assessed to the student enrolled in the courses. Essentially, all students who enroll in a study abroad course are automatically awarded the Study Abroad Aid. The remaining 10% of the student's net assessed tuition is allocated to the Study Abroad Center to support study abroad initiatives. This "90/10" policy only applies to group study abroad programs and not to individual study abroad programs.

In fiscal year 2007, group study abroad programs generated approximately \$1.30 million in tuition revenue. The Study Abroad Center awarded approximately \$1.14 million for Study Abroad Aid.

Because the inherent principles of the Resource Management Model direct that tuition be distributed formulaically, the work group suggested that the current treatment of tuition revenue generated by group study abroad courses and the current institutional “90/10” group study abroad policy be reviewed.

Several options were presented to and discussed with Dave Holger, associate provost for academic programs who presented the issues and options to the Associate Deans for Undergraduate Programs. The group reached consensus about modifying the 1997 policy for managing tuition revenue for group study abroad courses and the “90/10” practice of awarding group study abroad aid. That consensus is reflected in the recommendations below.

Recommendation

Individual Study Abroad Courses

The RMM Tuition Revenue implementation work group recommends that the tuition revenue distribution model, as prescribed by the Resource Management Model, should be applied to the tuition revenue generated from individual study abroad courses. The work group also recommends that course program fees associated with individual study abroad courses should continue to be distributed directly to the unit that is administratively responsible for the course (i.e. academic department, college administrative office or Study Abroad Center).

Group Study Abroad Courses

The RMM Tuition Revenue implementation work group recommends that the tuition revenue distribution model, as prescribed by the Resource Management Model, should be applied to the tuition revenue generated from group study abroad courses effective for fiscal year 2009. Beginning in FY09, the tuition revenue will be managed within the General Fund. The work group also recommends that course program fees associated with group study abroad courses should continue to be distributed directly to the department that is administratively responsible for the course (i.e. academic department, college administrative office or Study Abroad Center).

Group Study Abroad Aid

With the tuition revenue generated from group study abroad courses distributed to the colleges based on the parameters of the Resource Management Model, the current “90/10” institutional group study abroad policy will be discontinued effective for fiscal year 2009. The decision to award and fund any study abroad aid will become the responsibility of the college that offers the group study abroad course.

A transition plan will be developed for group study abroad programs for summer 2008 where students have already committed to the program with the promise of the 90% study abroad aid.