Office of International Programs
Faculty International Program Development Grants Report
Mei Zhong, 2012

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Name: Mei Zhong
Faculty/Rank: Associate professor
Department: School of Journalism and Media Studies
College: Professional Studies and Fine Arts
Office phone: 594-4633
Other phone: 
E mail address: mzhong@mail.sdsu.edu

Proposal title: Faculty International Program Development Grants Proposal

Country/ies visited: China

Institution visited: Tsinghua University, Beijing, China; Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China; Tianjin University of Finance and Economics (TUFE), Tianjin, China; Zhejiang University of Media and Communications (ZUMC), Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China.

Dates of travel: July 8 – 25, 2012
Number of student participants: 14

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates):

Faculty director: Service-learning program at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, summer 2008 (*Did not go due to pregnancy).
Faculty director: Service-learning program at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, summer 2007.
Faculty facilitator: Service-learning program at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, summer 2006.
Program coordinator: SDSU and TUF/E/Hebei University/Anhui University exchanges, China, summer 2004.

Program coordinator and professor: SDSU and TUF/E exchange, summer course (COMM496), Tianjin and Xi’an, China, 2003 (* trip was canceled due to SARS).

Program coordinator and professor: SDSU and TUF/E exchange, summer course (COMM496), Tianjin, China, 2001.

Program coordinator: Establish SDSU and TUF/E exchange, China, summer 2000.

Have all required reports been submitted?
Yes.

Other funding for this activity available/applied for:
None.

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

The Tsinghua University Summer Service-Learning Program (SSLP) started with U.S. participants in 2006. In 2012, the program projects to include about 80 U.S. students from over 10 institutions; 20 will be from SDSU. Since summer 2011, the program is built into a course: ASIAN499 to allow students to earn credits by doing academic work. I am the professor on record for the course. During this trip, I will
1. Serve as faculty and director of the service-learning program at Tsinghua University. SDSU will send about 20 students to participate in the Service-Learning project and work with Tsinghua students to teach English to elementary and high-school students/teachers in rural China.
2. Visit existing exchange programs with SDSU including CUC, TUF/E, and ZUMC.
3. Visit new campuses in China to explore potential exchanges for SDSU students.

Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity

As proposed, I traveled to China in July, 2012. My two main purposes were to direct the Summer Service-Learning Programs (SSLP) that we have with Tsinghua University, Beijing and visit existing exchange universities that I help facilitate over the years. I was able to complete those tasks and returned to San Diego on July 25.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

In preparation for the trip, I participated in and facilitated the promotional effort for recruiting students for the SSLP and we end up with 14 students this year. I held three info-sessions during spring 2012 regarding the program. In early July, just before departure, I taught the first part of the course: ASIAN 490 to set up assignments and discuss orientation issues for students.
For the second purpose of the trip, I contacted all exchange partners in China to set up meetings for my visit.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

As planned, I spent about half of my time facilitating the SSLP program until all students had gone to their rural sites with their service-learning teams. In addition to supervising activities and coordinating with Tsinghua officials, I was invited to give a lecture on cross-cultural communication to Tsinghua participants who would be working side-by-side with our students. It was very well received and I’ve invited by program officials to play a bigger role next year.

While continued to stay in contact with students (in various locations all over China) over the phone, I spent my second half of the trip visiting our existing exchange partners in Beijing, Tianjin, and Hangzhou, China. This was a long overdue visit since 2007, as it is important to maintain face-to-face contact in exchange relationships.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?

I am happy that I was able to complete both tasks during this trip. I plan on maintaining a good relationship with our exchange partners in China so as to ensure options for our students for study abroad. The SSLP is going strong since we started it in 2006, and now sustained in the form of an academic course. It’s the most meaningful study abroad experience for many of our students.

V. Additional Information

I appreciate all past support from the OIP to make these connections possible and look forward to working hard in preserving them in the future. These programs provide valuable experiences for SDSU students especially in a growing country as China.