



International Academic Programs

MEMO

Date: June 2, 2004
To: Dr. Robert McGrath, Provost
From: William Arens, Dean, International Academic Programs *Bill Arens*
Subject: Agreements

Attached are three agreements for your consideration. I then recommend them for President Kenny's signature. The first is a unique document establishing a mechanism for the nomination of Leakey Fellows by United States International University, Kenya to pursue their graduate degrees here at SBU. This process would be one way and the funding the responsibility of the GS as agreed to by Dean Lawrence Martin. The second is a standard exchange agreement with the same university which would provide us with the opportunity to send SBU students to USIU in Kenya as our first exchange partner in Africa. (For financial reasons it is unlikely they will send us any students in return.) The third document is a similar Student Exchange agreement with the University of Bremen, Germany sponsored by Professor Imin Kao, ME, and Dean Yacov Shamash, CSEA.

I hope to be able to arrange a signing for the first two documents in Kenya on June 22, and the second for a signing here when the Bremen VP visits campus (in my absence) on June 21. Assuming that Shirley Kenny agrees to sign, the two USIU texts should be returned to my office for transmittal to me in Kenya. The Bremen text should be returned to my office in preparation for the visit.

For reasons best left to Lynette Phillips to explain, she refuses to recommend these documents for Shirley Kenny's signature. Admittedly, the Leakey proposal involves one way traffic to our campus but this is not an unusual activity for the GS. The Student Exchange documents are revised in accordance with some of Lynette's suggestions made earlier this academic year. However, she now wants to amend these agreements again to indicate that international exchange students coming here will pay our out of state tuition rates rather than waiving tuition costs on both sides. The existing waiver arrangement which you have is the traditional national and international format and sanctioned by SUNY policy. (**State University of New York, International Programs: Policies, Guidelines, and Procedures.**)

The revision suggested by Lynette implies that *quid pro quo*, our students going abroad would have to pay tuition at the host university. In our most popular destinations, such as England, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan this would mean our students would be responsible for non-national tuition fees. In most cases, the figure is thousands of dollars per semester more than our in-state tuition. As a consequence, this experience would likely be beyond the reach of our students. For other destinations, such as continental Europe, where there are no tuition costs, our exchange partners would not send us students if they were required to pay our tuition fees. Thus, in return we would be prohibited from sending them ours.

In sum, I believe Lynette's proposed revision would bring international exchanges at SBU to an immediate halt. As such, I hope you will be able to resolve this matter with the President's office preferably before the visit of the VP of Bremen and my proposed signing date in Kenya.

Thank you for your assistance.