Who “Owns” Faculty-led Courses?

A Conversation about the Benefits and Liabilities of Centralizing Faculty-led Programs

Aga Michalak, University Of St. Thomas
Tave Reser, Seminars International
Catherine Spaeth, Seminars International
William Swart, Augustana College
**De-centralized**

- Faculty develop course proposal; university may or may not have a review and approval process
- Faculty choose provider or may make logistics arrangements on own
- Faculty develop course budget and determine per-student cost
- Faculty make payments to providers
- EA office manages student applications, payments, registration
- Faculty do student recruiting
- EA office may provide training to faculty on how to develop and manage short-term courses
- EA office may or may not be involved in any of the above aspects.

**Centralized**

- EA office (w/university committee?) reviews and approves courses
- Faculty responsible for academic content and for proposing courses
- EA office manages student applications, payments, registration
- EA office works with providers; may choose providers
- EA office provides orientation/training to faculty directors
- EA office is involved in managing/making decisions about emergencies abroad
- Recruiting shared w/faculty or managed by EA office
- Centralized attention to risk management
Short survey

- How many of you use a centralized model?
- De-centralized?
- How many are satisfied with your current model?
- How many wish you had a different model?
- How many of you are actively working towards a different model?
• Three professional experiences and perspectives on centralization and ownership of faculty-led courses:

  – Faculty member

  – Education Abroad office staff

  – Provider
Table Top Discussion

1. What are the successes of centralization on your campus?
2. What are the challenges and failures?
3. When is the centralization of faculty-led courses necessary?
4. Are there times when centralization works against the interests of education abroad goals?
5. What do faculty mean when they say they “own” the curriculum?
6. How does this ownership overlap with best practices in education abroad? (align or conflict?)
7. How can EA professionals and providers respect faculty ownership of the curriculum yet safeguard best practices?
Centralization And The Faces Of Education Abroad: Where Do We Go From Here?

• Given the progress in the EA field to define best practices, should we all be working towards centralizing faculty-led programs?

• How do we foster a cooperative environment among faculty, EA offices, providers?

• What is the ideal approach to centralization? ....on your campus?