Sounds Cool! But...How Do You Know?

A Ship in the Harbor is safe, but that is not what Ships are built for.

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What do we want?

• Do we want programs in less traditional destinations?
• Do we want programs that offer field research, internships, and other hands-on academic experiences?
• Do we want programs that offer robust community engagement?
• Do we want programs that allow students to have a local, integrated experience abroad?
• Do we want our students to be as safe as possible while doing all of the above?
How do we know?

• Even if we can build or run a program, should we?
• How do intersecting/multi-faceted needs and risk tolerance levels impact program development and delivery?
• Which resources can we use to develop our institution’s risk tolerance matrix?
• How can we develop consistent processes to help our institution make informed decisions?
• How do we balance a desire for exciting programs in exciting locations with the need to keep our students safe as possible?
Finding the Sweet Spot

- Academic Program Quality
- Cultural Immersion
- Community Engagement
- Skill Development
- Health, Safety, and Security
- Cost
- Sustainability
Where?

Parent

Language Immersion

Cultural Immersion

Field-Based STEM Projects

Orientation Center

Study Abroad

EPCOT Center
Program Development and Risk

Location

- Local Network
- Setting and Balancing Expectations
  - Program Design, Students, and a Reality Check
- Careful Risk Assessment
  - Academic program components
  - Co-Curricular program components
  - Independent Student Time
  - Emergency Contingency Planning
- Program Goals and Cost Considerations
Sounds Cool but... what about legal considerations?
Definitions

• **Risk management** is the identification, assessment, and prioritization of risks followed by coordinated and economical application of resources to minimize, monitor, and control the probability and/or impact of unfortunate events.

• **Liability** can mean something that is a hindrance or puts an individual or group at a disadvantage, or something that someone is responsible for, or something that increases the chance of something occurring (i.e. it is a cause).

Definitions from Wikipedia
Legal Principles

• **Duty of Care**: a legal obligation imposed on an individual requiring that they adhere to a standard of reasonable care while performing any acts that could foreseeably harm others.

• **Reasonableness**: a reasonable person is a hypothetical person in society who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct and who serves as a comparative standard for determining liability.

• **Foreseeability**: The facility to perceive, know in advance, or reasonably anticipate that damage or injury will probably ensue from acts or omissions.
Legal Consideration Queries

• Tolerance for Risk
• Academic Value
• Risk Readiness
Risk Tolerance Queries

• What is your institution’s tolerance for risk?
  – Do you have a travel policy associated with high-threat locations and/or countries on the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning list (or other similar list produced by your country of residence)?

• Does your risk tolerance vary between traveling populations?

• Do you insurance products comport with your risk tolerance?

• Is your risk tolerance in line with your institutional peers?
Academic Value Queries

• Does it reflect of the institution’s particular strengths or expertise?
• Does it comport with our strategic goals?
• Does it allow progress towards degree requirements?
• Does it provide for a unique learning opportunity unavailable elsewhere?
• Can the same academic goals be achieved in a less risky environment?
Risk Readiness Queries

- Can we competently and thoroughly assess risks (and propose mitigation strategies)?
- Do we have adequate insurance coverages for this location/activity?
- Do we have access to immediate financial resources in case our [insurance] provider delays action we perceive to be necessary?
Welcome to ZOMBA

- Application exercise
- Read Country Profile (5 minutes)
- Fill out your portion of the Matrix at your table. (Each table does the same subset) (5 mins)
- Discuss at table- any differences? All concur?
- One person presents out (1 minute per table)
Lessons Learned

• Practice does not make perfect…but it helps!
• Consistency is a global and borderless need
• Build a network of resources and experts
• Importance of ongoing assessment and flexibility
• Don’t chase a bright shiny object across a multi-lane highway without looking around carefully first!
• Hire or work with full-time health, safety, and security professionals
• It sounds cool…but how do you know?
Sounds Cool...

Comments?