ITEM: __13__

Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
January 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Faculty-Led Study Abroad (FLSA) Travel-Related Expenses

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the University to post international study abroad travel-related expenses to the participating student’s University financial account.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A Faculty-Led Study Abroad (FLSA) Program is a for-credit FGCU academic course or series of courses instructed by FGCU faculty who also lead the travel abroad component. Program lengths are generally from one to four weeks and destinations have included locations in Europe, Latin and South America, Africa, and Asia. These programs, by definition, are primarily academic in nature and often include student research or service learning experiences.

Annually, approximately 150-175 students participate in FGCU FLSA programs. In addition to paying normal tuition and fees for the academic course component, students also must pay the full travel cost associated with the international program component. The nature of international travel necessitates that the University secure, and financially commit to, program services and travel costs many months prior to the actual travel dates.

FGCU's International Services Office requests authorization to work with the Office of Student Financial Services to create a mechanism whereby a student’s international study abroad trip expenses be charged through the student’s University financial account.
The purpose of this request is to improve the operational and procedural management of FLSA programs and mirror the business model commonly used in study abroad programs as well as the travel industry.

Supporting Documentation Included: N/A

Prepared by: Director of International Services Elaine Hozdik

Legal Review by: Vice President and General Counsel Vee Leonard (November 21, 2014)

Submitted by: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ronald Toll