**Tuition Waivers – Study Abroad & Exchange Programs**

**Incoming Exchange Student Waivers**

Request: $100,000/academic year

Rationale:

Bilateral institutional agreements obligate CWU to waive tuition for incoming students from recognized partner institutions officially nominated for the exchange. While numbers may dip in coming terms as we attempt to bring certain relationships in balance, CWU hosted 15 students during for varying durations over the course of AY 2013-15, awarding 26 waivers for a total of $63,528. At the time of writing, CWU is set to host an additional 9 beginning Fall 2014, though more will come in subsequent terms.

**Incoming Non-Matriculated Student Waivers (Partner Institutions)**

Request: $60,000/academic year

Rationale:

Exchange relationships with certain partners have become unsustainable due to uneven demand. In an effort to bring exchanges into balance, some exchange relationships have been suspended. However, as some of these institutional relationships are long-standing and entail other programs bringing revenue to CWU, outright cancellation is politically or financially undesirable. Therefore, recognizing both realities, a possible middle path is to accept a given number of students officially nominated by the affected exchange partners as fee-paying students with reduced tuition. This provides both a concession to the long-standing partnership between institutions and revenue CWU would not otherwise have.

**International Internships**

Request: $30,000/Summer 2015

Rationale:

International internships are an excellent way for students to obtain unique intercultural experience, as well as work experience they can put on their resume. Because of this more obvious connection to post-university career goals, international internships are a growing sector of education abroad. Moreover, CWU graduate students currently have very few options for education abroad, and international internships are one of the easiest ways to incorporate education abroad at the graduate level.

Given the difficulty in self-arranging internships, the majority of CWU students participating in international internships do so through one of our third-party program partners or another organization that provides placement assistance and other services. For this, students pay a program fee, which typically ranges from $5500 to $7500 (approximately). This does not include airfare and may or may not include the cost of the appropriate visa, meals and certain other living expenses. To give some perspective, the United Kingdom’s Tier V visa—which allows students to have a stand-alone (i.e. no accompanying in-country classes) internship—costs approximately $800-$1000. This is rather the extreme, but it is not unusual for other visas to be $300-$400. Moreover, due to visa
regulations, it is extremely rare that students are able to find paid internships. The vast majority of placements are unpaid.

Depending on the sponsoring organization, academic credit may be attached or at least be an option. This would provide the ability to use transfer credit, but the question then arises whether this satisfies the student’s requirements and needs. Internships from other sponsoring organizations may have no option for receiving academic credit, except from the student’s home institution.

For undergraduates, internships add approximately $1500-$2500 in tuition (currently $1588 for 6 credits and $2647 for 12 credits), as well as the $350 per term in mandatory fees. Graduate credit, obviously, is more costly. Therefore, tuition charges can raise the cost of international internships. While CWU cannot modulate the program and living costs, we can seek to facilitate and encourage participation by waiving tuition. The will also help reduce the need for students to rely on student loans and taking on the subsequent debt.

It is important that Summer Quarter be included in waiver eligibility. This is the most popular term for students to participate in internships, as it means they are still able to take a full slate of classes during the regular academic year. Moreover, during the summer significantly less financial aid is available to defray costs.

During AY 2013-14 (Fall through Spring), SAEP awarded waivers to 8 students totaling $18,186.20 of an allotment of $30,000. During AY 2012-13, 36 students (29 during Summer 2013) received waivers totaling $83,931.90. The requested amount would allow an increase to accommodate summer internships, but still provide a cap to prevent the significant losses of AY 2012-13.

Matriculated international students participating in internships in their home country would be ineligible. This not only guards against abuse such as that experienced during AY 2012-13, but also encourages those students to expand their cultural experiences by providing incentives to go to a third country.