

# Programs from a Different Perspective: Program Director Insights and Solving Problems in Advance

Presented by:

Yvette Garner, Ph.D.

Naomi Stuesser, BFA, MLIS

Jessica Renard, M.Ed.

University of West Georgia





# Dream Program Activity



- Where would you go?
- How long?
- What would you want to learn/teach?
- What could your institutions' average student could pay?
- How many students do you think the program needs to be viable? How difficult will it be to hit that number?
- How would you recruit? Target audience? Marketing?
- What are common challenges in developing a program?



# Creating a Program in Belize





# Biology Field Course

- 10 days
  - 7 students
  - 2 faculty
- Partnered with Monkey Bay  
Wildlife Sanctuary





# Biology Field Course

- 1 field course, not a multi class program
- Worked with a local provider so we did not arrange housing, transportation, other logistics
- We developed an itinerary with the provider, they offered an a la carte style array of activities and guest lecturers





# Faculty Don't Know What They Don't Know



- Where would you go?
- How long?
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## ***Presenter notes added after session:***

*Questions and skillsets not generally known/possessed by inexperienced faculty at the start of a program:*

*What do you think your institutions' average student could pay?*

- *How many students do you think the program needs to be viable?*
  - *What will you do if you can't hit your number?*
  - *Creative recruiting*
- *Institutional budgeting rules*
- *Working with an on site provider or partner*
  - *What is their role in the curriculum?*
  - *What are 'normal' expectations?*
- *Risk management*
  - *Remembering what it was like to go abroad for the first time*

*How to address these:*

- *Good orientation programs for new directors and/or a clear checklist can address this very effectively*
- *Have to have the sour in with the sweet*
- *Risk of over education is low ;)*





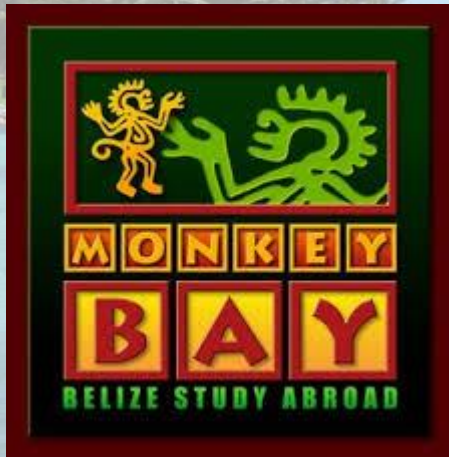
# Encouraging Faculty





# Faculty reservations

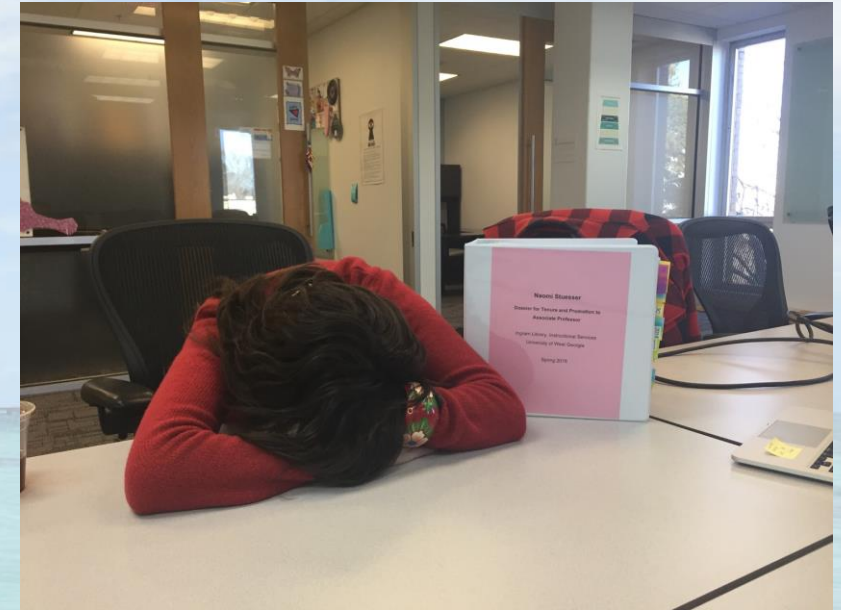
- Building from the ground up
  - On site providers
  - Support from Office of Education Abroad



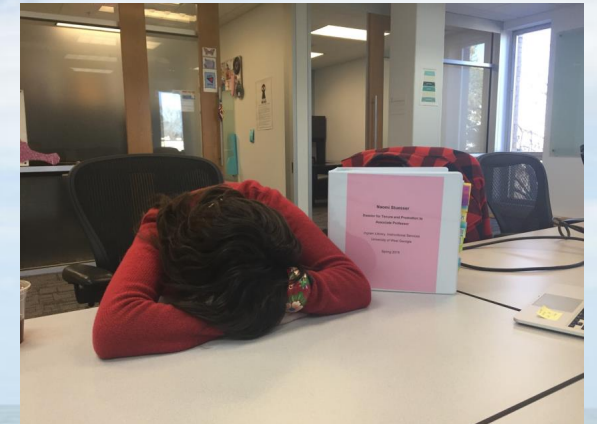


# Faculty reservations

- Return on investment for pre-tenure faculty
  - Faculty's cv/tenure plan
  - Professional development
  - Cross departmental partnerships



- More that we didn't know, it can be hard to get faculty to develop a program, **why we have reservations** and how an office can be proactive in addressing those reservations
  - We'll have to build from the ground up
    - ON SITE PROVIDERS - gateway, now Yvette and Naomi are feeling brave enough
    - Great to find out the OEA office had a lot of universal issues already addressed; Risk management for one, any items that are universal
  - Return on investment for pre-tenure faculty
    - How will this benefit the faculty's CV / Tenure plan?
    - Again, knowing of all the support provided by the OEA
    - Make professional dev opportunities known, with OEA, SOTL (scholarship of teaching and learning (the type of research Naomi and Yvette are doing to better understand how/what students learn while on our program)).
    - Cross departmental partnership building





# Solving Problems



## Education Abroad Office Point of View

- Debriefing IS KEY:
  - Y & N should have scheduled more downtime for them and the students - being 'on' so much is more exhausting than you expect
  - Re - the bullet above, faculty need a buddy
  - Y & N did not realize they'd be Den Mothers
  - For an outdoor course like Y & N's:
    - First Aid training
    - Physical training / setting expectations: ADA, swimming, hiking
- Assuring faculty that mistakes will be made and it will be okay

Creating (multiple) Programs

Problems or Issues that Arise

Supporting a Program

Addressing Problems for Next Year - creating short videos for the faculty handbook





# Questions?

Yvette Garner - [ygarner@westga.edu](mailto:ygarner@westga.edu)

Naomi Stuesser - [nstuesse@westga.edu](mailto:nstuesse@westga.edu)

Jessica Renard - [jrenard@westga.edu](mailto:jrenard@westga.edu)

