



Dear Study Abroad & International Missions Team:

The Study Abroad & International Missions committee has done superb work! On behalf of the entire senior leadership team, I want to express our deepest thanks for your many hours of work, and the very helpful recommendations you have given us to consider.

We are enthusiastic about seeing the following recommendations move forward, using current resources and transforming current positions. We believe that transforming the current University Ministries Outreach Director position into a Director of Local, National & International Missions will enable us to implement this plan.

The new Director of Study Abroad, Dr. Thandi Dinani, and her team, working in tandem with a Director of Missions, will be able to add the strength of a new, close collaboration with international missions to the existing strength of our decentralized model for study abroad and international missions. This will allow for the more effective creation, delivery and oversight of all international trips.

The following recommendations are approved by senior leadership:

- Establish a long-term goal that all Belmont University students have an international experience, with 50% of students participating by 2020.
- Assess current available data regarding barriers to student participation in study abroad and/or international missions and, if needed, develop a survey to gather additional data.
- Utilize current Study Abroad and University Ministries' staff to ensure consistency and safety for all international travel.
- Create two student learning modules, a vocational discernment guide and a prayer devotional guide, which can be used by any university leader responsible for a study abroad or international mission trip.
- Create an international missions leader resource guide.

While we are not approving the purchase of a centralized registration system or a formalized logistics hub, we do recognize the need to streamline administration of travel logistics and to maintain records of important details for all Belmont travelers travelling internationally.

Serving others is core to who we are as an institution and is central to our Christ-centered

mission. Though not every international trip will be missional, all trips can embody our conviction that each student is created by God for a unique purpose, and that an important part of a Belmont education is discovering and living out that purpose in service to others.

Study abroad trips will not have to include missions components, just as mission trips are not expected to offer academic credit, but we are thankful that Belmont Study Abroad has become a leader in offering discipline-specific mission trips for academic credit. Study Abroad has become an increasingly important part of the Belmont experience for many students. International Missions is a more recent addition to the international opportunities for students at Belmont. Intentional collaboration between the two areas will allow us to increase the number and variety of international trips we can offer.

While we will not physically co-locate SAIM, we affirm the proposals to:

- Present all international experiences together online and in printed materials, and at orientation and other campus events, thus taking advantage of a synergistic approach.
- Establish a uniform definition of international missions and develop a strategic plan for international missions that will take into account the long-term impact on both the places we serve, as well as on Belmont participants.

We would like to request that the implementation team be led by Dr. Joe Alexander, Rev. Heather Daugherty, Dr. Thandi Dinani, and the Director of Local, National and International Missions (not a new position, but a full reconceptualization of the current position of University Ministries Director of Outreach held by Dr. Micah Weedman). In addition to SAIM team members who would like to continue their work as members of the implementation team, we want to include faculty and staff who have been leaders in our international mission efforts. I will continue as the senior leadership liaison for this team.

Once again, please accept our senior leadership team's warmest thanks for the superb work of the SAIM team.

Todd

Dr. Todd L. Lake
Vice President for Spiritual Development