

MHC Town Meeting

Topic of Discussion: Are the Career Development Center and the Center for Global Initiatives Working for You?

Wednesday, November 15th, 7:30 to 9pm in the Blanchard Great Room

Attendance: Scott Brown (CDC), Katya King (CDC), David Gardner (CDC), Georgiana Chevry (CDC), Eva Paus (CGI), Joanne Picard (CGI), Jale Okay (CGI); ~50 students

Becca Lenn introduces the structure of the meeting: First 45 minutes devoted solely to student dialogue, last 45 minutes (8:15am), questions will be turned over to present staff members from the CDC and CGI

7:30pm to 8:15pm: The following are suggestions and questions posed by students present:

- *Just wanted to say that she had a positive experience with the CDC
- *Had a problem with the CDC, she felt that she had been brushed off many times
- *Generally had a positive experience
- *CGI should emphasize more about women of color going abroad, wants more preparation for women of color
- *MHC should try to get the same opportunities that our peer institutions have
- *CGI is good at preparing the logistics (cover letters and resumes)
- *Would like to see more information about opportunities to work abroad
- *More collaboration with the CDC and the CGI in creating opportunities to work abroad
- *Always found the CDC helpful for finding internships; more information about the funding stipulations and processes
- *Good that they have forums online, the process for looking for an internship online is difficult, maybe a way to have a key words section
- *Some people feel that they are bombarded by information through emails that do not interest them
- *More information about graduate programs abroad
- *Promote the going abroad information sessions
- *Is the CDC still available to us after we graduate? (Answer: Yes)
- *Students from smaller departments have problems getting into some abroad programs
- *Make clear what all steps to going abroad are
- *Come up with a step by step checklist of deadlines that would help
- *Help to network fellow abroad students who are at the same place at the same time
- *Help to reintegrate students who spent the past year or semester abroad, sometimes they have trouble acclimating
- *Possibly explore other options if faculty have issues with too many students going abroad maybe more j-term courses, or summer programs
- *More collaboration with past abroad students with current students that are seeking study abroad opportunities that suit them best
- *It is a good thing when advisors encourage their students to go abroad
- *Certain majors are underrepresented at the CDC (Journalism) and therefore it is hard finding opportunities within those particular fields
- *It is difficult for science or math majors to go abroad

- *Have the information about study abroad and career advising more readily available in multiple locations
- *The students should bring feedback back to the CDC and the CGI after their experiences
- *Credit should be available for internships
- *The CDC should supply transportation or information for caucuses that are held in other cities
- *More opportunities made available for international students
- *Concerned after being discouraged by the CGI, rude email responses
- *Invite alums into the CDC to speak of their own experience
- *CDC and the CGI should reach out to the CBL (Community based learning program)
- *More guide lines at the end of first year as to how to proceed with career advising and study abroad

8:15 to 8:35pm

Scott Brown: Director of the Career Development Center

Glad to be able to get feedback

The CDC is here for you

What the office exists to do

- Helps to answer: what do I want to do? How can I do that? And How do I get from point a to point b?
- Help you to figure out what you want to do,
- Help to build an internal compass where you can answer your own questions
- It is hard for a fish to describe water...
- The stuff you have been doing for free are what you will be paid for in the future
- work hard with peer institutions to figure out what is best for each student

Goal is to not just teach students how to make a living but also how to make a life

David Gardner- pre-health and science scholarships and information

*Is helping to create a universal application system, all applications go into a common pool based solely on merit

*Working on making processes more productive and accurate

*Not enough bulletin board space to post all of the listings for graduate schools and other opportunities

*“we can’t do all of the work for you,” he said, “we can teach you how to fish as opposed to giving you a fish”

*encouraged the increased use of their services and tools that are supplied to students

Katya King- pre-law advising and other grad school

*Services are available after you graduate

*Almost expect students to take time off and then get help, more than happy to help students out as an alum

*Some scholarships are not available to Mount Holyoke for historical reasons (Watson scholarship)

*Just want to say that the CDC works hard

*Always struggle with too much or too little information and deciphering where people stand

Georgiana Chevry – assistant director of internships

*Encouraged students to get help with their resumes and any other questions

“We are here for you, and we are willing to get whatever organizations that you want here. Come talk to us!”

Eva Paus: Director for the McCullough Center for Global Initiatives

CGI is not only for study abroad but:

*Works very closely with departments in forming study abroad opportunities

*Organizes Global conferences

*Starting to make their way through departments and figure out what programs are best for each major

*Work very hard on expanding traditional study abroad opportunities

*It is now possible to have an academic internship abroad that you could receive credit for

*Unfortunately there are not enough hours in the day for each person to make appointments; asked that students do some research before having a meeting

*Declared it important that the website be up to date in order for students to do effective research regarding their study abroad/work abroad opportunities

*Working to spread the word about the international fair, more publicity is necessary

*They understand that there is a need for more support for students of color

“We want your feedback so we can make changes for the future”

For more information on both centers, please visit the following websites:

Career Development Center:

www.mtholyoke.edu/offices/cdc/5077.shtml

McCullough Center for Global Initiatives:

www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/programs/global/index.html

OR

Contact the staff members present at this meeting:

CDC

Scott Brown (scbrown)

Georgiana Chevry (gchevry)

Katya King (kpkking)

David Gardner (dgardner)

CGI

Eva Paus (epaus)

Joanne Picard (jpicard)

Jale Okay (jokay)