

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

International Travel Authorizations

I. Background: The State Budget and Control Board "began requiring approval for foreign travel more than 15 years ago. . . as part of an effort to monitor the amount of international travel by state employees" (V-P. R.W. Denton, Carolina Times, April, 1990). "All official foreign travel . . . must have approval by the . . . Board prior to departure . . . regardless of the source of funds used (State, Grant, Other, Personal). . . . Each travel request must be accompanied by a travel authorization form and a letter of justification." (R.W. Denton, 14 January, 1988). From March 1st, 1990, the Board would not authorize foreign travel after-the-fact.

II. The Committee was aware that the application of the State policy in the University had been questioned in meetings of Faculty Senate on different occasions without a clear outcome. The objection was made that the Board's intention to monitor foreign travel need not -- or should not -- require control of foreign travel. Faculty who were obligated to foreign travel for scholarship and research that was externally funded would breach a condition of the award if the State Budget and Control Board refused permission to travel. Acting Provost Reeves agreed to provide details "on the source of funds for such trips, the number of letters submitted, the number of letters rejected, and so on" (Minutes, 12 December, 1990).

III. International travel:

(a) Number of requests:

FY 87/88	FY 88/89	FY 89/90	FY 90/91
*103	294	331	**218

\* Ja-Je '88 only

\*\* 1 J1-30 Jan'91 only

(b) Use of state funds:

"During May 15, 1990 through February 28, 1991, 160 of the 292 requests did not [emphasis supplied] involve any State funds" (R.W. Denton, 5 March, 1991)

(c) Requests rejected:

"We do not maintain records of rejections. This is because a rejection would not be paid, and therefore there would be no source document to maintain. My institutional memory is that no foreign travels have been disapproved that were timely submitted" (R.W. Denton, 28 March, 1991)

IV. Conclusion: The Committee agreed that "the chair will write a brief report on the subject for publication in the next Faculty Senate agenda" (Minutes, 8 May, 1991).

RECOMMENDATION: The Faculty Advisory Committee recommends that the above information be sent to the ~~Legislative Audit Council~~ in connection with the Council's on-going study of efficiency in governmental operations.

Approved

State Reorganization Commission