

**BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER**

Agenda Item Title: Proposed Amendments to the Board of Regents Handbook, Title 4, to add a new Chapter 23 Governing the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

Meeting Date: Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2013

1. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

As set forth in the proposed policy:

The mission of the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in academic programs abroad. USAC operates pursuant to a “University Studies Abroad Consortium Member University Charter (Adopted September 1997).” The consortium is comprised of more than 30 member universities and colleges in the United States and offers overseas academic programs in over two dozen countries, and continues to expand. The University of Nevada Reno (UNR) is the administering university of USAC, which is entirely self-funded primarily through student program fees. UNLV is a member university of USAC.

The complex nature of USAC operations, including the employment of hundreds of employees abroad, frequent travel, hosting, marketing activities, superseding or conflicting foreign labor laws, differences in foreign cost of living and compensation levels, and foreign country specific legal and financial requirements, often results in conflicts with general NSHE policies and procedures. In order to be successful, USAC must be able to compete in the national study abroad industry.

In recognition of these unique personnel, legal, financial and business management needs, specific policies and procedures for the operation of USAC are needed.

- Existing NSHE policies and procedures often cannot be applied in foreign country settings and may in fact conflict with legal requirements in those countries.
- Existing NSHE policies and procedures often present unnecessary barriers to USAC's self-supporting entrepreneurial activities and make it difficult to compete against other study abroad programs.
- Under these circumstances it is often impossible for USAC to be in compliance with NSHE policies and procedures, putting USAC in an untenable position,

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, New CHAPTER 23
University Studies Abroad Consortium

Additions appear in *italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 1. Introduction.

The mission of the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) is to provide students with the opportunity to participate in academic programs abroad. USAC operates pursuant to a “University Studies Abroad Consortium Member University Charter (Adopted September 1997).” The consortium is comprised of more than 30 member universities and colleges in the United States and offers overseas academic programs in over two dozen countries, and continues to expand. The University of Nevada Reno (UNR) is the administering university of USAC, which is entirely self-funded primarily through student program fees.

3. *USAC Independent Contractors.* *USAC independent contractors are not NSHE, USAC or UNR employees, and are hired solely to perform specific and usually temporary services. All USAC independent contractors shall be engaged pursuant to a*