

December 15, 2014

REPORT – FACULTY GRANT FOR INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS

To: Mohamed El-Aasser, Cindy Hart

From: Kiri Lee, Associate Professor, MLL/Director, Asian Studies Program

Re: Kanazawa University, Japan – October 31 - November 23, 2014

Overview:

I am pleased to report that my goal of this trip to develop an official exchange with Kanazawa University (KU: <http://www.kanazawa-u.ac.jp/e/>), in Japan, was met successfully. I first had meetings with my initial contacts, Dr. Mariko Saiki (International Student Center), and Dr. Takahiro Kiwata (Mechanical engineering). They made arrangements for me to meet the following people:

- Dr. Tomoaki Takayama, Director of Global Strategy Office.
- Prof. Tetsuharu Moriya, School of Teacher Education.
- Prof. Kyoko Ojima, School of Teacher Education.
- Prof. Toshimi Noda, Assistant Professor, School of Science and Engineering.
- Ms. Mayumi Ogawa, Section head, Global Affairs Support Office.
- Mr. Bruno Romero, an international student from Mexico in the master's program in mechanical engineering.

Through the meetings with these people, I learned that the situation at Kanazawa University for the exchange with Lehigh has become much more favorable since last year. Kanazawa University was chosen as one of “Super Global Universities” by the Japanese Ministry of Education in October 2014, and that comes with the government grants for the next ten years (approximately equivalent of \$1.5 million per year) towards institutional globalization efforts. We reached the conclusion that it would be the best to have an official exchange/partnership between us. This would be particularly beneficial to Lehigh students, because they will become eligible to receive stipend from Japan Student Services Organization (an office of the Japanese Ministry of Education) for their study at KU, which is only available for the international students from KU partner institutions.

I am also pleased with my fieldwork at KU. I was able to interview 23 international students there for the project titled “Indexicality and Choice of Japanese Address Terms in Cross-cultural Setting.” I was also able to buy several Japanese books relevant to my research there.

On-Site accomplishments:

KU faculty members and I reached the following consensus:

Short-term

- Continue Lehigh students' participation in KUSS-winter program.
- Accept KU students in a 4-5 weeks ESL program in summer in 2016.
- Establish the ESL faculty-led exchange program between LU and KU

- Send Lehigh students to KU study abroad programs as an official exchange site possibly in 2016.
- Identify 2-3 undergraduate/graduate engineering students at both LU and KU to exchange as a pilot case.

Long-term

- Faculty and graduate students research exchanges in the areas of ESL, cognitive science, and engineering.

Next steps:

- Discuss the process to make Kanazawa University as a Lehigh study abroad exchange site in Japan with the director of Study Abroad Office.
- Arrange a visit to Lehigh for Dr. Takayama, Director of Global Strategy Office, and Prof. Moriya, School of Teacher Education.
- Discuss an exchange for the ESL program with Dr. Tim Cauller and Prof. Moriya.
- Reach out my colleagues in Cognitive Science Program/Psychology Department for the possibility of research exchanges with Kanazawa University.

Budget Notes:

My hosts at Kanazawa University were very generous in many ways. They sometimes accommodated me overnight in their homes and paid for many meals. Also the exchange rate between US dollar and Japanese yen has been very favorable to US dollars recently, and therefore I was able to stay in Japan longer than my original plan. Even with the side trip to Taiho CMC research center in Tokushima (International internship site), the expenses stayed within the proposed budget.