

FACULTY MEETING
March 3, 2017

**MOTION FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH
FRONTIERS ABROAD IN NEW ZEALAND**

Motion: CEPP moves that the faculty establish a partnership with Frontiers Abroad in New Zealand to establish the Skidmore in New Zealand program. Skidmore College will serve as Frontiers Abroad's School of Record, with the opportunity in the future to develop a Skidmore-specific, STEM-based, faculty-led program in New Zealand.

Rationale: This motion comes to CEPP from the Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges, with support from the departments of Geosciences, Biology, and Environmental Studies and Sciences, and the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

A partnership with Frontiers Abroad in New Zealand will capitalize on our existing relationship and will provide several distinct opportunities for collaboration. Under this affiliation Skidmore will: envelop the existing Frontiers semester programs into the Skidmore programs portfolio for Skidmore students; serve as School of Record for non-Skidmore students participating on any Frontiers Abroad program (semester or short-term); and explore future opportunities for faculty development and student study abroad programs.

This partnership supports strategic goals for both Skidmore and Frontiers Abroad. Frontiers Abroad is looking for a strong, liberal arts college to partner with and support their objective of being a leader in field and research based study abroad programs. At the same time, Skidmore's Strategic Plan asks us to create new structures that support student integrative learning; to develop new ways to support faculty in their teaching and research; to enhance student access to educational opportunities; and to help students makes connections between what they learn at college and what they can accomplish throughout their lives. Our partnership with Frontiers Abroad will allow us to support these goals.

In addition, there are financial benefits to this new affiliation, including revenue for serving as the School of Record for Frontiers Abroad. However, the institutional gains are much greater than the dollars the program will bring. Skidmore will benefit by broadening our off-campus program portfolio to represent the sciences and locations outside of Western Europe, both areas in which we are lacking options for student and faculty engagement; by offering a focused study abroad option for STEM students, thereby supporting institutional goals around CIS; by providing opportunities that will encourage students to consider post-graduate research and educational opportunities; by cultivating faculty research and development opportunities; and by enhancing our national and international reputation through our relationship with peer and aspirant schools associated with the program.

OCSE envisions enfolding the Frontiers Abroad semester programs into the Skidmore portfolio – in fall 2017. At that time Skidmore will also become School of Record for Frontiers Abroad. Additional program and faculty development opportunities will be explored over the next two years in consultation with relevant departments. Any new program initiatives will be subject to additional review and approval by CEPP.