

To: Dr. Alan Sweedler, Director, Office of International Programs
From: Mei Zhong, Associate Professor, School of Communication
Re: International Travel Grant
Date: August 4, 2006
Cc: Dr. Joyce Gattas, Dean, Professional Studies and Fine Arts
Dr. Diane Borden, Interim Director, School of Communication
Mr. Ron Moffitt, International Student Center

REPORT FOR TRAVEL GRANT

-- Summer 2006

I applied for an international travel grant to support my trip to China this summer. The purpose for this trip is to participate in the Summer Poverty Alleviation Program at Tsinghua University in Beijing for late July. While in China, I made visits to several higher education institutions regarding existing and new exchange programs with SDSU.

I left San Diego on July 15 and returned on August 1, 2006. My visits include Shanghai Jiaotong University in Shanghai, Tsinghua University in Beijing, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, and Tianjin University of Finance and Economics in Tianjin. Below is the report on these visits:

Shanghai Jiaotong University (SJTU)

This is the first time I visited SJTU. I went with Mr. Robert Carolin of the International Student Center to meet with his counterpart in SJTU, Professor Zhigang Wang, Dean of the School of International Education. Our purpose was to explore possibilities of sending SDSU students to study abroad at SJTU. Since CSU already has an existing exchange contract with SJTU, we were there to talk about some details in order to start our exchange.

In addition, through Dean Wang, I arranged to meet with the Director of the School of Media and Design, Professor Guoliang Zhang and Associate Director, Professor Hong Jiang. We discussed possible collaborations with their newly formed School (four years) especially in new media and communication technology studies. They are eager to discuss potentials with our new School of Journalism and Media Studies.

Tsinghua University (TU)

One of the main purposes of this visit is to participate in the first year of American students' involvement in Tsinghua University's Poverty Alleviation Program in China.

The program is co-sponsored by TU and the Wang Foundation in California. My involvement was called upon by Dr. Peter Wang, founder of the Wang Foundation and Mr. Ron Moffit, Director of the International Student Center at SDSU. The program involves recruiting about 70 US students to join effort with about 500 TU students to form 62 teaching teams. Each team is assigned to one of the poorest counties in China to help train their elementary and high school teachers in English and computer skills.

I've worked closely with the SDSU committee on this program during the spring semester, 2006. This trip is to participate in the orientation during week of July 24 to 28. I was scheduled to visit one of the site locations with a group, but due to a miscommunication, I was not able to make the trip. However, I maintained contact by telephone with the team leader and a SDSU faculty (Miguel Barrios Lora of Asian Studies) until I returned to the US.

The program will complete in late August. In November this year, there will be a symposium that will feature reports on this year's program. I've been invited by Dr. Peter Wang to participate in it and registration (\$500) will be waived.

Tianjin University of Finance and Economics (TUFÉ)

During the week in Beijing, I made a visit to our existing exchange university in Tianjin. I met with TUFÉ President Jiaying Zhang and VP, Professor Zhu. I also met with all members of the Foreign Affairs Office led by Director Min Zhan and Deputy Director Honggui Li. We discussed issues concerning our exchange since Summer 2001. In spring 2006, I worked with the School of International Business to make sure that our students' study abroad credits are directly transferable to SDSU. This fall, we're preparing to send nine students to TUFÉ. TUFÉ officials are very accommodating to this great need of our students and allowed for the exceeding number of students for one semester (our contract states a regular exchange of three students per semester). In fact, President Zhang has repeatedly encouraged us to send more students to TUFÉ and hope to promote our exchange to a higher and broader level.

Besides these three institutions, I've made visits with individual scholars at other institutions including the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Chinese Education Commission, and the Chinese Communication University.

Thank you all for your constant support of these programs and my involvement in them.

Sincerely,

Mei Zhong



School of Communication
San Diego State University

Travel Budget

I was approved of a \$1,300 grant for this summer's travel. I understand it's meant to cover my transportation expenses only. Below is a list of my transportation costs including traveling within China (Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin):

Airfare	\$ 987.60
Trip to LAX	\$ 124.60 (140 miles X 2 X .445c)
Taxi and train	\$ 155.77
Total	\$ 1,267.97