

## **Focus Group Questions Spring 2002, Students of Color**

Thank you all for coming. We're delighted that you've made some time in your day to get together and speak with us about study abroad. Before we jump into the questions, let me just provide you with a little background about this process.

### **Purpose of the Sessions:**

As part of a Bush Foundation grant, the University is working to integrate study abroad throughout the U of M, systemwide, in all colleges and departments. Your feedback and insights today concerning study abroad will be critical to that process. Basically, we are interested in finding out what you think about study abroad, and maybe more importantly, why you think this way.

Before we begin, there are some basic ground rules that we'd like to go over with you so that this session can be productive and interesting for all involved.

- There are no wrong answers during this conversation, and we hope that you will be as candid as possible. All conversations within this room will remain confidential, and we won't use any names in our final reports. We also ask that whatever is said in this room remains in this room.
- You don't need to agree with others, but we ask that you listen respectfully as others share their views. We're hoping for a good, lively discussion here today, so feel free to respectfully disagree.
- Some quick logistical concerns. We ask that you turn off your cellular phones and pagers during the session. If you must respond to a call, please do so as quietly as possible and rejoin the group as quickly as you can.
- You may have noticed the tape-recorder. We will be taping the session because it's sometimes hard to get all of the information down that we would like to. We're really interested in what you have to say, and want to make sure that we can record all of the helpful things that are discussed here today.
- Finally, keep in mind that we're interested in both positive and negative comments, and that the negative comments are sometime the most helpful and interesting. With that said, let's begin.

### **Opening Questions**

**(0:00)** To start, please jot down on a piece of paper the first three things that come to mind when you think of “Study Abroad.” (Pause and allow students time to think) Now, please introduce yourself, tell us your college and major, and read what you wrote down? We’ll be jotting down your thoughts on this flipchart.

**(0:05)** Take some time to look at the flip chart and think about what general themes and issues appear there. (Pause to give time to think) Why did you think those items came to your minds? (Facilitation of discussion) What does this tell us about your thinking as it relates to study abroad?

### **Transition Questions**

**(0:15)** What kind of exposure have you had to the concept of study abroad?

(probing options)

- orientation
- advisers
- professors
- Learning Resource Centers
- posters, catalogs
- friends
- family

**(0:25)** Who’s opinion about study abroad issues do you most value?

**(0:30)** Who’s opinion about study abroad at the University do you most value?

### **Key Questions**

**(0:35)** If you were to study abroad, what concerns do you think you would have?

**(0:40)** Are there things that have prevented you from studying abroad? If so, what are those things?

**(0:45)** Do you think those concerns are relatively common? Do you think those hold true for most students?

**(0:50)** What would you need to hear or learn before you would participate in study abroad?

### **Ending Questions**

**(0:55)** Are there any issues that we’ve missed?