On December 14, 2009, the Assessment Oversight Committee (AOC) conducted an assessment review of Study Abroad (SA). Ms. Donna Anderson presented the report. She highlighted the pre-departure and re-entry assessment tools that SA employs. Since the pre-departure assessment tool is a paper instrument administered mandatorily, there is a 100% response. But the re-entry assessment tool is not mandatory and thereby results in only about 30 to 45% response. She also noted that out of the nine areas of assessment, six have shown consistently improvement between pre and re-entry responses (e.g., “I am comfortable interacting with persons of different backgrounds”). Anderson added that the applications to the study abroad program, questionnaires, assessments etc will all be moved to the on-line application called “Study Abroad”. A better re-entry response rate is anticipated due to the ease of electronic access and automatic e-mail reminders. SA is also investigating a move towards a more sophisticated and robust assessment tool used by other institutions in the field of education abroad called Global Perspective Inventory (GPI) is being investigated.

The AOC commended Ms. Anderson on the work SA is doing and their efforts to assess and make changes based on assessment. The assessment report was good. The AOC encourages SA to further consider the idea of journal based assessment (rather than purely objective or quantitative assessment) as it explores improvements to its assessment tools.