



# Can You Hear Me Now?

A Guide to Staying Connected to Students and  
the Office of Education Abroad During  
Study Abroad Programs

UNC Charlotte Legal Symposium, October 26, 2017

*Amy S. Kelso, Senior Associate General Counsel*

*Brad Sekulich, Director, Office of Education Abroad*

# Introduction



- ▶ This session covers the importance of
  - ▶ staying connected with students and the Office of Education Abroad (OEA) during study abroad programs;
  - ▶ legal responsibilities of faculty program directors; and
  - ▶ program decision-making in light of current global unrest.

# Staying Connected: Administrative



- ▶ TDS (Terra Dotta Software) study abroad database
  - ▶ Locating students during disasters or emergency events
  - ▶ Students self-reporting location/status
  - ▶ Messaging from Education Abroad
    - ▶ Security
    - ▶ Health

# Staying Connected: Methods



- ▶ Cell Phones
  - ▶ Are students expected to have phones/international service?
  - ▶ Faculty
    - ▶ Phones are required
    - ▶ Call trees
- ▶ Email - official means of communication
- ▶ Time zone differences
- ▶ GeoBlue travel insurance
  - ▶ Incident response; family, health facilities, etc.

# Staying Connected: Methods



## ▶ Social Media

- ▶ Talking to students about how to use it while abroad
- ▶ “Mark yourself safe”—communicating with friends, family, faculty, students in a crisis
- ▶ Faculty-created social media pages for groups/trips
  - ▶ Best practices
  - ▶ University social media accounts (Section III University Policy 302, Web Communications)
- ▶ OEA will use as last resort to contact students in time of crisis

# Legal Responsibilities: Resources



- ▶ OEA Training and Faculty Handbook
  - ▶ Required to attend workshop
  - ▶ Handbook is required reading
  - ▶ Highlights:
    - ▶ Emergency Reference Guide
    - ▶ On-Site Program Management
    - ▶ Emergency Response

# Legal Responsibilities: Compliance



## ▶ Title IX

- ▶ Faculty as “responsible employee”--responsible for reporting any alleged violation of Title IX
- ▶ Online report form
- ▶ Provide the victim/survivor with the Interpersonal Violence Resource Guide
- ▶ Obtain on-site assistance from host institution, local authorities, consulate, etc.

# Legal Responsibilities: Compliance



## ▶ Clery Act

- ▶ Obligation to report crimes that occur on property that the University “owns or controls”
  - ▶ “Control” includes rental/lease/use of all or part of a building or property by written agreement
- ▶ Work with OEA to report to PPS
- ▶ Obtain on-site assistance from host institution, local authorities, consulate, etc.
- ▶ See [CUA Note](#) and [NAFSA paper](#)



# True Stories



- ▶ Berlin example
  - ▶ Best practices
  - ▶ Lines of communication:
    - ▶ Faculty → OEA
    - ▶ Faculty → local authorities (including consulate/embassy, police, etc.)
    - ▶ Faculty → other program participants
    - ▶ OEA (not faculty) → parents
    - ▶ OEA → other University offices

# Current Global Unrest



- ▶ What are policies for running/cancelling programs?
  - ▶ Travel Warnings (new policy forthcoming)
    - ▶ US State Dept.
    - ▶ CDC
    - ▶ WHO
- ▶ Enrolling in STEP (Smart Traveler Enrollment Program)

# Current Global Unrest



- ▶ How sites are chosen
  - ▶ Who is involved?
  - ▶ What are the barometers?
- ▶ Communicate with OEA whenever there is a current crisis at or near site location(s)

# Q&A



- ▶ Questions for OEA or OLA?
- ▶ Contacts:
  - ▶ Brad Sekulich, Director, Office of Education Abroad
    - ▶ [sekulich@uncc.edu](mailto:sekulich@uncc.edu)
    - ▶ 704-687-7747
    - ▶ [edabroad.uncc.edu](http://edabroad.uncc.edu)
  - ▶ Amy Kelso, Senior Associate General Counsel
    - ▶ [amy.kelso@uncc.edu](mailto:amy.kelso@uncc.edu)
    - ▶ 828-232-4990
    - ▶ [legal.uncc.edu](http://legal.uncc.edu)