To: Global Education Committee

Re: The Global Education Committee Fund

Date: 22 August 2014

We are requesting $2000 for travel to Mexico for 11 days (9 days in-country plus 2 travel days) in May/June, 2015. We plan to lead an affordable, Augustana-only, study abroad opportunity to Mexico in January.

The estimated costs of conducting this course development trip are:

 Flight $650

 Lodging $400

 Food, Meals with local contacts, etc. $300

 Airport Shuttle, Taxis, Buses, Car $350

 Museum/Site Fees & Related Books/Materials (x2) $200

 Books for course development $100

 Total $2,000

This is a new study abroad opportunity that we hope will establish a continuing study abroad opportunity for students in future years. I am knowledgeable with regard to the archaeology and culture of Mexico and Central America, and has previously taught classes on that topic. I benefit from speaking Spanish and having travelled extensively in Latin America. I arranged on-the-ground logistics including establishing a relationship with Central College, arranging lodging, food, transportation, etc.

This trip is necessary in order to solidify our plans as outlined in the syllabus, and it will allow me to make informed choices with regard to the cultural sites that we visit, improving the quality of the educational experience for the students. Previous travel was limited time in Yucatán restricted to Mérida alone, and I was not able to visit any of the museums, archaeological sites, or natural attractions outside of Mérida. These are critical components of the course learning experience, and also present logistical and timing challenges that need to be resolved for course planning purposes. I plan to visit numerous archaeological sites, museums, and other cultural sites that will be suitable for students, as well as partake in experiences of cultural significance that are likely to provide students with meaningful and memorable experiences. We also need to maintain connections with regard to specific lodging, dining, and transportation possibilities. Part of the planned in-country activity is engagement in a volunteer activity in rural Mérida, which still needs to be arranged. This trip will give the opportunity to establish the connections that are necessary to execute such a project. In order to facilitate development of a long-term study abroad option in the Yucatán, we feel that a trip is necessary in order to assure that both faculty members are well-equipped and comfortable teaching and leading the course, while beginning to establish lasting connections in the region.

In summary, this trip is necessary in order to finish as yet incomplete tasks, namely:

1. Visiting numerous cultural, historical, and natural sites to examine their value, and plan a schedule accordingly
2. Maintaining connections with local contacts in Mérida
3. Arranging a Volunteer/Service experience
4. Confirming logistical arrangements i.e. lodging, food, transport
5. Further developing course content