IFGE Abstract
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The Germany Biosciences Semester Program is a spring semester study abroad program based in Bonn, Germany, involving majors in biomedical and life science and biomedical engineering and is designed to permit these students to complete their “normal” spring semester course requirements while abroad as well as exposing them to international aspects of their disciplines. All of the students enroll in VTPP 401 (History of Medicine) and we incorporate international experiences (guest lecturers, field trips) in all of the other coursework. By providing these students with access to the courses they would normally be taking on campus we keep them on schedule for graduation after 4 years and have them prepared and eligible for the coursework they need in the fall following the study abroad. This aspect is critical for a successful and sustainable study abroad program. I applied for support for the following: faculty buy-out support for participating departments and/or stipend support for a senior graduate student or postdoctoral teaching fellow ($9,000/person); student scholarships ($16,000); and scholarship seed money ($10,000). The seed money would be used to jumpstart a fundraising effort designed to provide endowed scholarships for future program participants. The Committee funded the third of my requests (scholarship seed money) and considered that to be both highly innovative and "sustainable" (supporting the program into the future).