

International Education Committee meeting minutes April 28, 2017

Present: Gareth Barkin, Alva Butcher, Debbie Chee, Carmen Eyssautier, Lea Fortmann, Eowyn Greeno, Diane Kelley (chair), Kriszta Kotsis, Sunil Kukreja, Roy Robinson, Mike Spivey.

The meeting was called to order at 11am.

The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Student petition to approve Round River Conservation Studies Taku program.

Concern was expressed that the student had previously applied to a different program which was cancelled, and hadn't revealed that she'd also applied to another Round River program at the same time. Peter Wimberger's strong support letter was discussed. Kotsis suggested it be communicated to the student that the IEC was uncomfortable with the circumstances surrounding the petition, and the way in which the student had placed the committee in a difficult position. The petition was approved by a 5-4 vote.

Discussion of programs to eliminate.

Robinson introduced a chart illustrating programs for potential elimination. Some programs had not seen a student participate in five years or more, normally leading to automatic removal. Others were recommended by the OIP for a variety of disparate reasons, which Robinson outlined. The Committee, in discussing the removal of Botswana programs, suggested Robinson contact Rachel DeMotts to inquire whether she planned on sending students to those programs in the future. Robinson further outlined abroad opportunities that are currently considered multiple programs due to having different tracks available, but which could otherwise be considered a single program for reporting purposes. The Committee voted in favor of all OIP recommendations, reducing the total number of international programs offered at Puget Sound from 115 to 74.

Discussion of Kris Imbrigotta application for short-term program in Berlin

The committee discussed whether this program would need to be approved by the Curriculum Committee as a new course; it was suggested it would be, and had already been submitted. Barkin suggested the new Program Evaluation Criteria developed in the current year be integrated into the faculty led, short-term program proposal, so petitioners would be compelled to consider the IEC's priorities for such programs as part of the application process; Robinson said he'd pursue that. Barkin expressed concern over the content of the field portion of the course, and its academic rigor, noting that most of the listed programming could be construed as conventional Berlin tourism. Kukreja and Kelley further expressed their concerns about the academic balance of the program, which only included 10 weeks of on-campus instruction, and little apparent academic content while in Berlin.

The Committee agreed its concerns be communicated to Professor Imbrigotta, and that it be suggested he think about potential revisions to the program that would put it more closely in line with the IEC's Program Evaluation Rubric. Kukreja and Barkin suggested he update the field agenda with greater emphasis on academic content and more substantive local engagements, in line with the rubric. Kotsis suggested student presentations on the agenda indicated there may be an academic experience already integrated into the program. The Committee discussed the need to have faculty address the Program Evaluation Rubric and generally familiarize applicants with it, so that the IEC didn't need to intuit whether proposed programs met certain criteria or not. It was suggested Imbrigotta address these concerns in a revision of his proposal that would be reviewed by the IEC at its first fall meeting.

Discussion of Andreas Ubdye proposal for short-term program in India

As with the prior proposal, the Committee again discussed the balance of classroom time and instruction while abroad, as well as whether there would be sufficient student interest in the program, given its likely high cost. Chee suggested a more involved process in recommending sexual violence policies and procedures to faculty proposing new programs, rather than asking them how they would handle them. The Committee discussed the balance of responsibility between the IEC and faculty in developing such policies and procedures. Kelley suggested the proposal form for faculty-led programs be revised to request information about sexual violence policies from any third-party provider agency the faculty member planned to work with. Kelley suggested Ubdye also needed to look at the Program Evaluation Rubric and develop a more detailed plan for his time in India, which was not addressed in detail within the proposal.

Kelley suggested remaining agenda items be resolved by the Committee over email.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am.

Respectfully submitted by Gareth Barkin.