

## **International Education Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **2/9/2018**

Present: Debbie Chee, Lea Fortmann, Eowyn Greeno, Diane Kelley (chair), Andrea Kueter, Kriszta Kotsis, Sunil Kukreja, Mike Spivey, Matthew Warning

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

#### **Agenda Item #1:**

M/S/P: The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with minor corrections.

#### **Agenda Item #3:**

Greeno provided overview of current numbers for study abroad applications:

46 students applied for summer programs

10 students applied for full academic year single programs (5 of which are for Lewis & Clark's program in Germany)

80 students applied for Fall 2018

94 students applied for Spring 2019

(There are 5 students who applied to two separate programs in Fall and Spring '18-19.)

There were a total of 230 applications, somewhat fewer than in previous years, but with an increase in the number of academic year program applications (rather than summer program applications).

#### Summer program applications

Greeno provided overview of the 46 summer applications for which the approval process needs to begin immediately. Students' participation in summer programs does not cost the university anything. About a dozen of the summer applications were for Velez-Quinones' Madrid Summers Program.

There was one student who did not meet the program GPA requirement amongst the 46 applicants.

M/S/P: After a discussion of the student's major and the strong support from a faculty member, the student's application was approved.

M/S/P: The other 45 applications for summer programs were approved because all students met program requirements.

#### Academic year applications

Greeno reported that 21 students applied for Fall programs that fill quickly, and noted that the various program providers require formal approval to move these applications forward. Most students were well-qualified for the programs, meeting essay and GPA requirements.

M/S/P: One student did not meet GPA requirement and therefore this student's study abroad application was denied.

One student applied to two independent programs, one in the fall and one in the spring. The student has met the requirements, provided a good rationale for participation in these programs, and met all other requirements. However, given the possible financial burden on the university since the current number of applications could lead to a budgetary shortfall, the committee discussed whether it is fair to approve a student's applications for two semesters in two different programs. This may create a situation where another qualified student's application is turned down due to budgetary constraints. The committee considered that the student in question is applying to these two programs because they offer academic content not available at Puget Sound. The committee also discussed how strongly to weigh each criterion and in what order from the Study Abroad Selection Criteria. It was also noted that the current instructions for students do not ask them to articulate the rationale behind applying to two different study abroad programs for a whole academic year. It was also stated that when a student is away from campus for a whole year that student misses out on a number of significant Puget Sound experiences. Further, a committee member noted that when a student attends more than one study abroad program, the overall study abroad experience could be diluted. It was also mentioned that we should attempt to approve study abroad applications as fairly as possible; it does not seem fair that one student could attend two programs while another, whose program deadlines are less urgent, might not receive approval even for a single program because of budgetary issues. It was also noted that we should be aware of signs where a student is simply seeking to "rack up" fun experiences. It was ultimately decided that OIP will contact this student and all others who have applied to two separate semester long programs for a whole academic year to rank their choices. The committee then will be able to decide about their applications.

**Agenda Item #4:**

Discussion of a statement IEC could give to the Strategic Plan Committee – Goal Team One

Kukreja affirmed that it would be prudent to move on this as fast as possible and noted that drafting a statement would be useful. Fortman noted that we may want to send our statement to Team Two as well.

Kelley noted that high impact learning and experiential learning are key aspects of the Strategic Plan under development, and that study abroad fits clearly into these categories. She also noted that study abroad experiences through Puget Sound could also be marketed more extensively, which might benefit our institution.

It was suggested that a list of values and priorities associated with study abroad and global engagement might be sufficient to provide to Goal Team One.

Kukreja noted that the university's mission statement emphasizes "global citizenship," and that our statement could relate to this goal. He also noted that it would be important to highlight both study abroad and the presence of international students on our campus, as both of these are critical to our mission statement.

Kotsis suggested that the Objectives listed on the Program Evaluation Criteria document (developed last year) could be used for the statement, and Kukreja suggested that specific, actionable points should be added to this more general list: e.g., prioritizing the recruitment of international students; providing fuller support for study abroad programs, especially those led by Puget Sound faculty.

The Objectives of the Program Evaluation Criteria are as follows:

**Objective 1:** To foster intercultural competence, cross-cultural communication skills, and personal development.

- Knowledge: to develop a richer understanding of another culture, and a broad competence that is applicable across a variety of intercultural contexts.
- Communication: to develop skills and ability to engage in effective cross-cultural communication and understanding.
- Self-Awareness and reflexivity: to develop the ability to contextualize and understand alternative perspectives based on different cultural systems.

**Objective 2:** To foster global citizenship and appreciation of international diversity and interdependencies.

- To develop a deeper understanding of global interconnectedness and diversity.
- To develop a stronger sense of social responsibility, social justice, and international power relationships.
- To foster civic engagement at home and abroad.

**Agenda Item #5:**

Discussion of faculty-led study abroad application document:

It was noted that a paragraph with clearer instructions would be helpful to include in the document. Other minor modifications were also suggested.

M/S/P: Meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by K. Kotsis