

International Education Committee
Minutes of the November 16, 2018 Meeting

Present: Debbie Chee, Carmen Eyssautier, Eowyn Greeno, Diane Kelley, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Sunil Kukreja, Roy Robinson, Rokiatou Soumaré, Matt Warning

Chair Diane Kelley convened the meeting at 11:02 AM.

Chair encouraged subcommittees to meet. It was noted by one committee member that some subcommittees have already done so in November.

Agenda Item 1. Discussion of minutes from October 19 meeting

One committee member suggested to edit the language regarding our feedback to Denise Glover. The comments were clarified. Motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2. Announcements

A committee member announced the creation of a new course offered by Karl Fields that will be on the books for Spring 19. The course is an EXLN 301, a 2.5 activity credit offered for all students who study abroad on short term faculty led program and it is for the semester afterward. The course will be also offered in the Fall by Nick Kontogeorgopoulos and Pierre Ly once they come back from their faculty led programs in Thailand and China. It was proposed to the Dean of Experiential Learning to do a special pilot 301 in Spring 2020 for students who have studied abroad. The pilot will be run by Nick Kontogeorgopoulos. 10 students are expected to sign up. The chair asked if there were any other announcements.

Agenda Item 3. Revision of the Faculty lead short study abroad term application

The chair reminded the committee of difficulties that Faculty had in the past with the application which prompted the need for a revision. The chair changed the application to simplify the process for applicants. One committee member noted that the edits were clearly an improvement. Another added that in the past some faculty members have considered the form to be helpful in foreseeing issues that could arise during a study abroad program. That committee member asked if there's a mechanism to help faculty reflect on potential problems such as students being hospitalized abroad. One committee member asked about the dates of the orientation. One replied that the dates haven't been set yet but it will more than likely be during the winter break for Fall and in the beginning of Spring. Several committee members noted that the orientation will take place after the approval process. A committee member commented that there's also opportunities to give more information during one-on-one meeting early in the process. Another committee member stressed the necessity to be transparent during interest meeting. The committee member recommended informing students about the challenges they may face while abroad. Another committee member agreed and commented on the need for students to do their own internal assessment. Comments were made about not discriminating students based on their physical or emotional health. It was noted that because those questions are asked after the approval process there's no bias.

Motion to approve the changes. The changes were approved.

Agenda Item 4. IEC Google drive and Google suite

A committee member explained the need for the IEC to have documents on Google Drive. The idea is to have everything in one place and available easily. He then explained that the committee will be moving towards Google Suite because it is more secure. IEC members will be able to register with their Puget Sound log in. The committee member then walked the IEC through the process. Committee members agreed to all register on Google Suite before the next meeting. Questions were asked about where to post the draft minutes and how to deal with editing. A committee member suggested sending draft minutes via email and posting final documents on Google Suite. The decision was made to have temporary draft minutes' document and a folder with revised minutes. All IEC members will receive an email that will allow them to access Google Suite.

Agenda Item 5. Discussion of the process of application for study abroad

A committee member summarized the process for new IEC members. It was noted that OIP has seen less traffic because of a much smaller freshman class last year. The sophomore cohort in Fall 18 is 475 students compared to 579 students last Fall. During advising OIP has met with 29.5% of the students as of November 2018, a similar percentage than last year. OIP expects to have 45% of the sophomore cohort to apply for study abroad. IEC can project to have to vote on 213 applications including those applying for the Summer. OIP will inform IEC about students who met the eligibility requirements. The budget is similar to that of last year however there's an increase in the budget dedicated to Pac Rim. One Committee member added that OIP isn't anticipating difficulties allocating funding to students because there are fewer applicants. Then followed a discussion about budget allocation and spending.

A committee member informed IEC members that the deadline for application is January 25. IEC will have to schedule several meetings to quickly vote on those applications. Comments were made by several committee members on the importance of essays turned in by students.

Agenda Item 6. Review of the eligibility criteria for OIP

A committee member suggested that IEC addresses the fact that many students enrolled at UPS with a lot of credits. He asked how to deal with students that will remain at UPS for only 3 years, instead of 4. One committee member suggested using their matriculation date and adding an asterisk to indicate their standing when needed. A discussion followed about putting the graduation date rather than the standing. One committee member suggested to add an open question in the application dedicated to class standing that would allow those students to clarify their situation for the committee. The committee agreed to discuss that next semester.

One committee member then wondered if it's appropriate to have stability as criterion. Another suggested to focus on independence rather than stability. Another committee member suggested that resilience would be more useful. A committee member volunteered to send a list of more appropriate criteria.

Meeting ended at 11:54.

Minutes submitted by Rokiatou Soumaré.