

International Education Committee

Minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting

Present: Gareth Barkin, Debbie Chee, Carmen Eyssautier, Eowyn Greeno, Diane Kelley, Andrea Klyn, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Roy Robinson, Rokiadou Soumaré, Sheryl Zylstra

Chair Gareth Barkin convened the meeting at 11:35.

Agenda Item 1. Updates from subcommittees

Chair Barkin discussed the folders in which subcommittees should upload their final reports. He suggested that committees upload their final reports by April 23, allowing time to put together the full report that week. The report will be presented before the Faculty Senate on May 6.

Several subcommittees gave updates. The subcommittee on charges 2 (guidelines for faculty who wish to incorporate short-term study abroad) and 4 (criteria for distribution of funds) made significant progress and completed all tasks at hand.

Time did not allow the subcommittee on charge 6 (e-portfolio) to officially meet. However, one of its members will implement the use of e-portfolio. The subcommittee also received feedback from several students regarding their expectations with the use of e-portfolio while studying abroad.

The subcommittee on charge 1a (sexual assault prevention) has met multiple times. It has completed the first component of its charge, the second component could not move forward because of the change in Title IX officer, the committee needs more input of what exactly it should be looking for in the companies. The committee created a rubric, a member talked to the companies and was able to collect numerous responses from them. The committee also finalized the brochure.

The subcommittee on charge 3 (disparity in first-generation and historically underrepresented student participation in study abroad) noted that the data it received indicated study abroad participation by these populations was not as low as had been expected. The number of juniors who went abroad during fall and spring semesters is 35% in 2016-17, 43 % in 2017-18 and 35% in 2018-19. The number of underrepresented juniors who studied abroad is lower: 33% in 2016-17, 27% in 2017-18 and 25% in 2018-19. A committee member asked if the number included faculty led programs. The subcommittee responded that the percentages used in the data do not include faculty-led programs. Another committee member suggested to add PacRim in the figures. One member wondered if there was data specific to first generation college students. Questions were asked about the cause of the disparities. The IEC agreed that more research was necessary in order to figure out the reasons why some students are not participating in study abroad programs. One committee member added that if we are looking at the reasons why people are not going abroad, it should be integrated within the broader conversation of increasing the number of Puget Sound students studying abroad to 40%.

The subcommittee on charge 5 (running start students) is waiting to have running start students apply to study abroad, which is expected to begin next year.

Agenda Item 2. Discussion of minutes from March 12 meeting

Review of the minutes of March 12. Minor edits were made. The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 3. Announcements and updates from the OIP

The OIP plans to propose the addition of a couple of programs before the end of the year. To that effect, Roy Robinson visited and reviewed seven Israeli universities. In the past, parents were interested in sending their children in Israel but the university could not do so because of travel warnings. The OIP mentioned that the current travel advisory level for Israel allows us to send students and also stated that the costs were affordable. The OIP is leaning toward Tel Aviv University for a couple of reasons, the first being security issues, the second is that our calendar better matches that of Tel Aviv University. Finally, OIP has experience working with Dana Rubin, the Study Abroad Director at Tel Aviv University. In the past, she worked at the University of Washington and as the IES Representative on the West Coast. Tel Aviv University will offer 20 to 25 courses on regional politics, History, Israeli politics, Jewish Studies, Art Studies, Management, Economics, Communication etc.

The OIP also proposed to diversify its summer programs to locations currently approved for spring and fall semesters, for instance Dublin. A faculty member wondered if students would get credit for these summer programs because that could be an issue for some departments.

Agenda Item 4: Ghana proposal

The committee received LaToya Brackett's responses to inquiries that had been submitted as part of a contingent program approval in the previous meeting. After a discussion, the committee unanimously moved that this course be approved only if all students enrolled in the class participated in the trip and any students not enrolled in the class (either conventionally or as auditors) not going on the trip. The committee also suggested to LaToya Brackett to frame her syllabus more explicitly around the travel to Ghana, integrating the travel component of the course more closely into its course description and expected outcomes.

Agenda Item 5: Brett Rogers short-term program proposal, Greek Odyssey

The committee received Brett Rogers's proposal. During their discussion committee members raised concerns about the lack of details regarding site utilization. They were also interested in having information about how the class would engage with locals, if at all. As well, the committee would like to see how students will engage with the content/material of the class, and how that material would be integrated into the time spent abroad. Committee members noted that, as a .25 credit academic course, this was a new model of short-term study abroad for the University, and agreed to request additional details from Professor Rogers regarding the academic expectations of the course and the reasoning behind the .25 credit choice.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35.

Minutes submitted by Rokiatou Soumaré