

International Education Committee

24 March 2020

Attending: Gareth Barkin, Karl Fields, Eowyn Greeno, Roy Robinson, Brett M Rogers, Rokiatou Soumare, Matt Warning, Sheryl Zylstra, Hillary Robbeloth, Marianna Sanchez Castillo, Sunil Kukrija

The Committee Co-chairs convened the virtual meeting at 1:00pm

Minutes

Minutes from February 25 meeting: Minutes approved

Minutes from March 10th meeting: Minutes approved

A question was asked whether student names should be included in the minutes. If a student submits a written petition to the committee it was decided that we could include the student's name for clarification purposes.

Announcements:

Please note that subcommittee reports are due at the next meeting!

Status of study abroad - All study abroad has been shut down at this time due to Covid19. There is currently a level 4 global health advisory. Almost all of our students have returned from their placements. We have 3 students in NZ that are readying to come home. Two are flying out today and the third is planning to leave NZ on Friday, with efforts being made to move flights up if able. Three students have chosen to stay where they are (Germany, Netherlands, staying with relatives).

Many summer study abroad programs have already been cancelled. Additional summer programs will likely be cancelled shortly.

Fall 2020 study abroad students have been told to sign up for classes at UPS just in case they are not allowed to travel at that time.

PAC RIM fall travel has been cancelled, but there is hope that the Spring program will still go. This decision was made by the Provost. This will impact especially the seniors that are enrolled.

There were 65 UPS students studying abroad in January who our colleagues have worked hard to get home.

Eric Olin's Proposal: This trip cannot be connected to a course as it would limit the number of students who are able to attend this study abroad experience. It was designed to not be connected to a course so that students across the curriculum can have the option of attending.

This means that the students won't have the opportunity to frame the trip via a concurrent course.

Vote: It was moved that we vote on whether to **approve** this request. All were in favor of approving the program.

Andrew Gardner's proposal: The committee felt that this proposal needed more information. Some questions were not addressed clearly. There was concern that spring break (7 days - 5 days of learning) will not be long enough for an immersive and academic experience. Would students miss classes in the week prior to Spring Break or the week after? More information is needed about the location especially if the plans are to change locations each time this trip takes place. It is felt that more immersive programs should be prioritized.

Vote: The decision was made to further discuss this at the next meeting.

Larger questions were raised: Should study abroad international trips be approved for one weeks' time? Is the cost recouped in the short term learning? Could there be a separate category for very short term study abroad. E.g. Visit abroad? Course field trip?

Kris' proposal: Proposes to conduct the same program that was previously conducted. Due to time constraints we will also continue discussing this program proposal at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 pm

Minutes virtually submitted by Sheryl Zylstra