

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Minutes from the first meeting of the Spring semester
February 1, 2013

Present: Haile Canton, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, Stephanie Noss, Roy Robinson, Matt Warning, Peter Wimberger.

Approval of the minutes from 11/30/13. M/S/P

Robinson announced a replacement hire has been made for Sally Sprenger. Allyson Lindsley was scheduled to start on the following Tuesday. She is coming to us from PLU.

Wimberger asked if anyone attended the recent meeting of the Budget Task Force. Robinson didn't, but he updated the committee on the number of applications coming in for study abroad, which speaks to the budget. Since February 1 was the deadline for study abroad applications, Robinson said that if only two more applications were to come in by the end of the day that we would likely have to make cuts in the number of students going abroad next year. The Office of International Programs was currently working with Martin Jackson on ranking applications. Robinson and Noss expressed disappointment at the quality of the essays and shared a few anonymous examples with the committee.

Kelley asked if it was a good idea to have everyone do the same application, or whether students who were applying to go on a program sanctioned or required by their academic program should be made to justify the suitability of that program to their major or minor. She maintained that that seemed like a waste of time for the student and also for those reviewing applications. Initially, Ferrari, Warning and Canton maintained that all students should be asked to fill out the same application to have an even playing field. After Kelley maintained that language students, for example, already have a clear academic justification for going on language-specific abroad programs because they have studied the language enough to take classes in the target language and culture, Warning said he could see that point. Wimberger asked if we could use essays that students will have to write for their program-specific application as part of the UPS application. Robinson said that might be a possibility in the future. For this crop of essays, he said that OIP was going to return bad essays to the students and ask them to redo them. He stated that if they are not willing to redo the essays, this could be taken into consideration when looking at all the factors together. Warning pointed out that we should give clear guidelines as to what we want to see in these essays. Robinson agreed and added that this will be spelled out more clearly next time. This year OIP was in a time crunch to put the application process together and this was a first attempt that will be revisited for next year. Ferrari suggested that asking students to redo their essays might give them an unfair advantage. Noss clarified that the top tiers will automatically be accepted and the lower tiers will compete against each other; a student asked to rewrite an essay will be placed in the lower tiers.

Robinson added that the 13-14 study abroad budget is not yet fixed. Some program prices have not yet been posted, and often spring program prices are not known until the fall.

Canton suggested that the lower tiers meet with OIP to work on their essays. Robinson and Noss said that CWLT can offer workshops.

The date by which OIP must have the study abroad acceptances out will be February 15; the IEC will need to have another meeting before then to look at borderline cases, or this could be done by subcommittee, Wimberger suggested.

It was decided that at 11am Monday February 11 the IEC would meet to look at the borderline cases. Friday February 15, the IEC would also meet at their regular meeting time.

Wimberger then turned the conversation to other items that will need to be accomplished this semester.

1. China/Taiwan/Taipei program reviews. This was left incomplete last semester. Ingalls, Marshall, Brenfleck and Ferrari are on that committee. Brenfleck is currently abroad. Wimberger will discuss with Ingall, Marshall and Ferrari to see when we can finish these reviews.

2. Kathleen Campbell also has faculty-proposed study abroad programs waiting for approval. She has finished the Balkans program, but the others may not be done until the summer. There is no hurry on these, so it is something the IEC can look at next fall.

Ferrari asked about a summer program for archaeology in Italy proposed last year by Eric Orlin. After discussion, Robinson and Noss said that this program has already been approved and is on our list of approved summer programs.

3. Working with Institutional Research on a study abroad survey. Ellen Peters wants to revise the one we have. Wimberger will invite her to a meeting. Warning volunteered to help with this. Robinson asked if we can ask Peters to also look at the returnee questionnaire and suggested that maybe we could make it all one survey rather than have two separate surveys.

4. Study abroad event in the fall semester. In the past, the committee has discussed a fall fair with food, presentations of independent summer study projects by recent abroad returnees, opportunities for students who might be interested in study abroad in the future, etc. Warning wondered if students would participate. Wimberger mused that perhaps we could require it, especially for independent study students. Ferrari informed the committee that Jonathan Stockdale leads a subcommittee for the Curriculum Committee to see how study abroad can be incorporated into the curriculum and suggested that perhaps the IEC should work with that subcommittee on this event. Wimberger said he would call Stockdale to discuss this. He also suggested that a subcommittee work on it.

5. Criteria for short-term study abroad program proposals. Wimberger suggested we should do a template for faculty about what they would need to do to propose or establish a new program. Wimberger also suggested a subcommittee work on this.

6. Educating faculty about study abroad policies and procedures. Wimberger suggested a Wednesday at 4 panel on this subject, perhaps before advising period in the spring semester. Kelley pointed out that the new PeopleSoft campus module will be coming out then, so faculty will be doing training for it, and that this might not be a good time to give faculty something else to think about. She suggested fall might be better. Wimberger agreed and said that we'd have more data to work with at that time as well.

7. Finding ways for faculty to know what credits transfer from what programs. This is Charge #5. After a brief discussion, the committee decided that we are not clear on what this charge means. Wimberger will go to the Senate to clarify the charge.

Robinson suggested having someone besides Kathleen Campbell be able to approve certain kinds of courses because she is overstretched.

Wimberger suggested assigning subcommittees. Warning volunteered for the survey. Kelley and Canton volunteered to work on the fall event. Ferrari said she is open to do whatever is needed. Wimberger volunteered for everything, but for now he will focus on the short-term faculty-led study abroad template.

Adjourned at 11:50.