

## **Minutes of the April 7, 2009 Meeting of the International Education Committee**

Present: Tristan Burger, Lynnette Claire, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, Donn Marshall, Jannie Meisberger, Jan Moore, Mei Rose, Peter Wimberger

Chair Peter Wimberger convened the meeting shortly after 2:00 p.m.

Donn Marshall's minutes, with corrections, were approved.

### Residency Credit:

Peter introduced the first item on the agenda, the residency credit rule for study abroad. Jannie noted that current Partner programs receive residency credit. She suggested that the change to one type of study abroad program, for which students pay Puget Sound tuition would render the residency credit rule moot. Lisa and Jan raised a concern about those students who study abroad during the semester they graduate, including the difficulty of getting the study abroad transcript in time to post the student's degree for the May graduation date. Peter noted that if our students pay Puget Sound tuition they should get residency credit by virtue of paying home school tuition. This is in accordance with the Forum on Education Abroad's Code of Ethics. Peter will send a letter to the Academic Standards Committee Chair recommending that if students pay Puget Sound tuition for their study abroad program, they should get residency credit.

### GPA requirements for Study Abroad:

Peter asked the committee for their thoughts on the suggested change to GPA requirement bullet in the General Eligibility Requirements for Study Abroad listed in the Logger, which current states:

*"Each program has a minimum grade point average requirement. Students should check with the individual program."*

Discussion followed on the draft change submitted by Jan and Jannie. The Committee agreed that students must meet the minimum requirements established by the program. **MSP** to affirm the existing policy requiring students to meet the minimum GPA required by the program. The 5th bullet point listed in the General Eligibility Requirements will be replaced by the following:

*"Students must meet minimum requirements for grade point average and pre-requisite course work, as specified by the program to which they are applying."*

Jannie will forward this change to Brad Tomhave for the Logger.

### Single deadline for study abroad programs, petition process:

Diane referred to discussion during the meeting last week between the faculty from Foreign Languages and Literature, Kris Bartanen, Maggie Mittuch and Lisa Ferrari regarding the possibility of an appeals process for a student who misses the February 15 deadline for very good reasons. There are no criteria currently in place so the Committee

spent some time discussing various scenarios which could justify an appeal and how the process might work. Peter asked the Committee to think about a possible process and he asked Diane to provide some language for the Committee to think about prior to the next meeting. Lisa suggested that one priority might be the university's limited financial resources for study abroad, which are tied to students' tuition.

Number of semesters a student can study abroad:

Jan had prepared a spreadsheet providing 4 years of data, and Lynnette had kindly graphed this information. After eliminating those students who took a summer program in addition to a regular semester program, Peter pointed out that just 26 students had taken more than one program, which worked out to 6.5 students per annum. Diane noted that students taking foreign languages would lose the most if there was a limit imposed. Discussion followed on the portability of financial aid for a second program. Peter suggested that students might get financial aid for their first semester program and have to petition for the second program. Tristan asked if there would be a limit imposed on study abroad. Lisa suggested that a criterion for the second semester could be only if it is academically relevant. Donn asked who would decide this. Jannie responded that this should be an academic decision by faculty, not International Programs staff. Peter noted that FLIA and IPE majors were the largest number of students who did 2 different semester programs and wondered if a change would be a problem for those majors. Lynnette suggested that IEC supports students wanting to study abroad and that the IEC would come back to this issue if at a later date the University needed to limit the number of students going abroad.

After discussion, **MSP** with one abstention that the IEC continue to allow students to participate in two semesters of study abroad because it affects very few students and most do for academic reasons.

College Year in Athens summer program:

Jannie asked the Committee to remove the College Year in Athens summer program from the list effective summer 2010, as the original summer program has been reduced to three weeks instead of 6 weeks, and the Classics department approves its removal. The regular semester program remains on the list. The Committee unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jannie Meisberger