

May 5, 2009 International Education Committee meeting minutes

Committee members present: Tristan Burger, Lynnette Claire, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, John Lear, Donn Marshall, Jannie Meisberger, Jan Moore, Mei Rose, Jonathan Stockdale, Peter Wimberger. Members absent: Heidi Orloff.

Peter Wimberger convened the meeting at 2 pm.

Minutes

Minutes of the 4/21 meeting were approved with some changes.

Residency Credit:

Given that all programs are moving to partner status, Peter suggested clarifying the language in the Logger to reflect that all programs will now count toward “Puget Sound” residency. Jannie pointed out that the exception is summer programs, for which tuition is not paid to UPS and therefore credits do not count toward UPS residency. The following language was approved by the committee (MSP) to be listed in the Logger:

All programs formerly classified as Approved will be recategorized as Partner programs for students entering Fall 2009 or later. Thus, all Study Abroad programs will count for residency credit for students falling under the new study abroad financial rules.

Moratorium on Program Approval

After looking at the charges the committee is putting forth for next year, which includes “reviewing and approving programs,” John suggested that we formally end the moratorium that has been in place for a while now on approving new programs. Jonathan proposed that in doing so we also establish some criteria for understanding how to fairly add new programs to the current offerings, and Lisa supported this idea, asking whether ‘we would be undoing some of our good work of reviewing past programs if we now approved new ones in an ad hoc rather than systematic fashion.’ Diane queried the committee about the formal process for adding new programs, which Jannie summarized, and Jonathan stated that while criteria for adding individual programs are in place, we need to be thinking about the total study abroad picture at UPS as we add new programs from here on out. At this point John suggested that this conversation might be distracting the committee from other business at hand and proposed putting the discussion of ending the moratorium onto the agenda/charges for next year.

Lisa suggested simply editing the charge for the committee next year—which currently reads “A. Review and approve new and existing international education programs...”—to include the charge of developing criteria by which to add programs equitably and in balance with our other study abroad offerings. We added the charge:

B. Evaluate offerings from a global and disciplinary perspective with an eye to providing coverage in geographic and disciplinary areas that are currently not

represented or are underrepresented. Consult with departments to find out if there are programs that they think we should have, or have additional insights about programs we have that they don't think we should keep.

Additional Charges

Peter suggested a few additional charges for next year, in addition to those mentioned in the final report to the Senate. He mentioned three:

G. Create a forum for spreading news of the recent changes in study abroad at UPS to the wider faculty, many of whom may not be fully aware of important recent decisions.

H. Advertise summer programs more widely to the campus. (Diane mentioned that these are not necessarily desirable for foreign language students, while Peter mentioned that for science students they might be helpful.)

I. Setting a goal to strive for regarding the optimum number of students from UPS going abroad.

Jonathan asked whether this wasn't going against the grain of recent discussions surrounding the potential need to limit the number of students going abroad? Lisa underscored that is isn't the goal of the administration to limit the number of students going abroad. Peter suggested that it might be a useful discussion for the campus to have, and Jan offered that it might highlight the need to search for additional funding to make study abroad viable for all students who wish to go. John concluded by saying such a discussion does reveal the discomfort of the current moment.

Programs on Probation

Jonathan suggested that, in addition to "reviewing and approving new and existing programs" next year, the committee should put a high priority on returning to those programs that the IEC placed on probation at the end of last year, to which students are currently not allowed to apply. These include IES Delhi and Rome.

The Future of Study Abroad

As the waning minutes of the year ticked down, John drew our attention back to Lisa's memo regarding fiscal responsibility at UPS, and the related question of "limiting" or "optimizing" (depending on your perspective) study abroad. Specifically, John asked when a decision would be made by the administration regarding funding protocols for study abroad next year.

Lisa reviewed the fact that with a set budget for study abroad from here out, criteria will need to be established (funding protocols) to decide what to do in the case that there is greater "pressure" on the study abroad budget than there are funds available. Lisa mentioned that this may not be an issue next year—given the difficult economy, which might drive fewer students to study abroad, as well as the smaller than normal rising junior class. However, she noted that this is the ideal time for the IEC to forward any guidelines

to the administration regarding optimizing/limiting/making fiscally responsible the study abroad program at UPS given a finite budget from here out.

Lynnette voiced the concern that if this task is left to the committee next year it will be difficult for a committee composed of several new members to tackle the job, given that there is a certain learning curve to being on the committee. In response, it was proposed that the committee take the extraordinary step of meeting one more time this year, on Monday of finals week, specifically to deal with the contents of Lisa's memo (to consider suggestions to the administration for how best to move forward with study abroad given rising costs and a finite budget). The committee agreed to meet for one last time on Monday 5/11 from 11-12 am.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jonathan Stockdale