

International Education Committee  
September 11, 2008 Minutes

Present: Tristan Burger (student representative), Lynnette Claire, Lisa Ferrari (Associate Dean), Sue Hannaford (Faculty Senate), Mark Harpring, Diane Kelley, John Lear, Donn Marshall (Associate Dean of Students), Jannie Meisberger (Director, International Programs), Jan Moore (Study Abroad Advisor, International Programs), Heidi Orloff, Mei Rose, Peter Wimberger

I. Welcome from Faculty Senate

As the Faculty Senate liaison to the International Education Committee (IEC), Sue Hannaford welcomed the group to the first meeting of this group as a standing committee. (Previously, the committee was the Interim Study Abroad Committee.) Everyone introduced him/herself. International Programs staff provided agendas and a Fast Facts sheet regarding study abroad.

II. Charges from Faculty Senate

Sue Hannaford reviewed the Faculty Senate's charges to the IEC:

- A. Review and approve new and existing international education programs and program proposals, including programs led by university faculty.
- B. Continue the comprehensive review of all study abroad programs offered through the university and revise the list based on geographical location and academic coverage.
- C. Assist the Office of International Programs in selecting students for study abroad.
- D. Review and ratify the study abroad mission statement.
- E. Review the Study Abroad Working Group's recommendations and determine if they should be endorsed.
- F. Communicate on a regular basis with the Student Life Committee. The Student Life Committee conducted a survey of returning study abroad students in Spring 2008. Jan and Jannie have been meeting with this committee. Sue noted that she can help facilitate communication between the groups. Lisa also offered to facilitate communication as she sits on both committees.

III. Nomination and Election of Committee Chair

Sue Hannaford suggested closed nominations for chair. After listing the nominees on the board, it was decided that John and Peter would be co-chairs of IEC, with John being the senior co-chair in the fall and Peter being the senior co-chair in the spring. John became chair of the meeting at this point.

#### IV. Sub-Committee Appointments

Given the sabbaticals (Jonathan Stockdale is currently on sabbatical this fall and Mark Harpring will be on sabbatical in the spring), Jannie suggested the division of committee members for the selection sub-committee. Jannie and Donn are permanent members of the selection sub-committee. In fall the additional members will be Lynnette, Mark, Heidi and Peter. In spring, the additional members are Diane, John, Mei and Jonathan.

It was decided that the new members of the committee should become somewhat familiar with the committee's work before selecting program review sub-committee assignments.

#### V. Update on Program Reviews

Jannie and Jan have prepared binders for program reviews for Oceana, Asia, Africa/Middle East, The Americas, United Kingdom/Ireland, and Europe. Programs have been reviewed in Oceana, Asia, and Africa/Middle East. ILACA Granada has also been reviewed. There will be three committee members on each area sub-committee to review existing programs. Jannie and Jan noted that they would like to meet with each sub-committee to put student comments in context and to contribute other information that may not be represented in the binders.

There is a moratorium on adding new programs until the program reviews are completed. New short term, non-credit programs are exempt from the ban. In response to questions about the moratorium, it was noted that there are too many programs for our International Programs staff to manage, particularly in regard to addressing concerns regarding academic and cultural experience quality. Health and safety are International Program staff's most significant concern. Budget management is also one of the concerns driving the effort to reduce the number of programs. We currently have about 150 programs and the goal of the President's cabinet is that we pare the list to about 40-50 programs (although this is not a firm figure). It was suggested that we try to pare down our list to less than 40 programs so that we can add programs that improve our selection.

Considerations for trimming the list include the desire to maintain diverse and strong options for all students. Consideration of both geography and discipline are important (for instance, we are under-represented in the sciences). We can GIS map programs by discipline, geography and program type (direct enroll, US university-run, or study abroad program). Some students will not be able to do exactly what they want, when they want, but diversity of programs was mentioned as a high priority. Our brightest students, in particular, need to have options for amazing experiences.

In response to questions about financial reporting on study abroad and the cabinet's approach to study abroad, Lisa said she would check on the availability of these reports before the next meeting. The report from the Study Abroad Working Group (SAWG) will be circulated to the committee.

Because we are a faculty committee, our charge is to examine programs in terms of academic standards, particularly rigor. Continuing committee members and staff noted that it is difficult to assess program rigor for a variety of reasons including the quality of students studying abroad and the student perceptions of rigor due to different teaching styles than they are accustomed to. Last year the committee proposed limiting study abroad to students with a 3.0 (or program required) GPA (this is still on the table). The committee also proposed limiting students to one semester program or one year-long program. Students cannot study two semesters in different locations unless they petition and have a compelling reason.

For now, the committee is not to worry about program costs.

Questions arose about students who entered Puget Sound believing they could study in a certain country and now that country is removed from our list. Lisa commented that this is a question of implementation. It is likely that programs would be phased out; we need to coordinate with admissions on this issue. If we can complete our program reviews by fall, we can change the available program list for the 2009-2010 incoming class.

Peter noted that he just came back from Lewis and Clark: 50-60% of all students go abroad on (nearly exclusively) faculty-led programs. However, not all these programs are semester programs. If faculty have the opportunity to visit study abroad programs, it is worthwhile.

John closed the discussion noting that committee members will have foundational documents by the next meeting: the ad hoc committee report from six years ago, the mission statement, SAWG's recommendations, and the cabinet documents (if available for distribution). Last year's evaluations are available for new members; Jan will send them electronically. At the next meeting, we will plan our review of remaining programs.

#### VI. Review of ICCS Sicily Program

Eric Orlin has proposed adding ICCS Sicily to our approved program list. Although there is a moratorium on new programs, there are reasons to consider approving this program for Eric Orlin's student. ICCS is very difficult to get into (ICCS Rome is approved; ICCS Sicily is new). The student is very qualified. Eric Orlin has requested this approval and he is our representative to ICCS. Kathleen Campbell has completed her report on ICCS Sicily. After discussion, it was agreed that John will ask Eric for his rationale in making this request, including helping the committee understand the student's alternatives. (There are two other programs for classics, but only of them has partner status.)

#### VII. Forum on Education Abroad Fifth Annual Conference

Jannie encouraged committee members to attend the Forum on Education Abroad's conference in Portland February 18-20, 2009. Puget Sound is one of the sponsoring

institutions of the conference, which focuses on the unique opportunities and challenges of teaching and learning at education abroad sites. Registration opens September 15<sup>th</sup> and group discounts are available (\$375/person for four, \$350/person for five). Jannie encouraged committee members to explore the website ([www.forumea.org](http://www.forumea.org)) and let her know if they are interested in attending.

#### VIII. Study Abroad Fair

There will a Study Abroad Fair on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11am-2pm in the Rotunda. Most of our program providers will be there. Jannie encouraged committee members to stop by as this is a good opportunity to become familiar with our programs.

#### IX. Adjournment

For the next meeting, members are asked to examine the foundational documents, including the criteria for program evaluation distributed at this meeting. We will form sub-committees around regions, so consider your interests.

At the next meeting, we will consider approval of ICCS Sicily.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynnette Claire  
September 18, 2008