

Minutes of the September 25, 2008 Meeting of the International Education Committee

Committee Members Present: Tristan Burger (student representative), Lynnette Claire, Lisa Ferrari (Associate Dean), Mark Harpring, Diane Kelley, John Lear, Jan Moore (Study Abroad Advisor, International Programs), Heidi Orloff, Mei Rose, Peter Wimberger

Chair John Lear convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

John mentioned the upcoming conference of the Forum on Education Abroad in Portland, Oregon, February 18-20, 2009 and noted that there is funding for three faculty members. Mark Harpring, John Lear and Peter Wimberger volunteered to attend the conference.

Program Reviews

The committee also discussed the program review process, specifically our task to bring the number of programs to a number (approximately 50 programs) much lower than what the committee had previously thought. John suggested that we continued to review the programs in the three remaining geographical regions (Europe, the Americas and the United Kingdom). Lynnette added that, last year, the review sub-committees even suggested adding programs to the Africa and the Middle East regions. She also proposed that we finish the review process as planned; then we can evaluate the programs in a more general way for geographical, academic and disciplinary diversity. Peter agreed that we should continue the process as started before making a second cut of programs to decrease the total number of programs available to students. Peter (followed by Diane) also expressed some doubt that reducing the number of programs will save money for the university. He wondered if cutting programs would reduce the workload in International Programs. Jan responded that reducing the number of programs to around 100 would not reduce their workload since many of the programs we will cut are not used by students.

Jan emphasized the urgency of the review process since International Programs is always working a year out with advertising, early application deadlines, etc. She also relayed Jannie's request that the committee consider the 3.0 GPA minimum for study for students studying abroad.

It was suggested that an ideal deadline for completing the program reviews is December 4, 2008.

Sicily Program

The committee also considered a request from a student to add a program in Sicily on a one-time basis while the moratorium on adding programs is in force. Several concerns were brought up. Would the committee then have to consider all other requests that might be submitted? How do we define "exceptional" students, and should "exceptional" students be allowed to study on programs that they themselves research and propose? Do

we grant an exception when a program seems well-suited for a particular academic area of study? It was agreed that the committee should consider exceptional cases on a one-time basis, and the committee approved the student's request.

Sub-Committees for Program Review

The committee divided the remaining regions for program reviews among its members:

Americas
Mark Harpring
John Lear
Peter Wimberger

Europe
Lynnette Claire
Lisa Ferrari
Diane Kelley
Tristan Berger

United Kingdom
Donn Marshall
Heidi Orloff
Mei Rose

It was also agreed that, at the October 9 meeting, we would consider the proposed minimum GPA for students wishing to study abroad. The committee will not meet on October 23 so that sub-committees can meet, but will reconvene on November 6.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Harpring