

Minutes of the November 20, 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), Mei Rose, Peter Wimberger, Jannie Meisberger.

Absent: Heidi Orloff, Donn Marshall

Guest: Sue Hannaford, Curriculum Committee liaison to IEC

Chair John Lear convened the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

John informed the committee of a memo he and Peter, as co-chairs of IEC, had received from Kris Bartanen requesting a meeting with IEC regarding proposed changes affecting study abroad which will be presented to the President's cabinet at their January meeting. The proposal includes a significant reduction in the number of study abroad offerings. Given the urgency and magnitude of the proposed changes, details of which John, Peter and Lisa would be discussing with Kris at a meeting later this week, John requested postponement of the UK subcommittee report until next semester. In light of this news, Diane suggested that the UK report be completed this semester. Lynnette asked Mei, as a member of the UK subcommittee, if a general report could be put together for the IEC by this time, with the detailed report being presented at the first meeting of the spring semester. Jan will send an electronic list of the programs for the Europe review to the committee members.

Jannie expressed concern that the IEC only had one more meeting this semester, which would not provide enough time for members to review the proposal and to provide Kris more feedback as she prepares for the January cabinet meeting. Lisa informed the committee that the cabinet would be looking to approve implementation for the 2010-2011 fiscal year so decisions about study abroad would need to be made at their January meeting in order to fit into the budget cycle. Diane responded that IEC needs to have full financial information in order to make any informed decisions about cutting or keeping programs. The committee agreed to find times to meet during finals week for discussion and Lisa undertook to find a meeting time.

Approval of minutes: Peter Wimberger requested a small correction to indicate that the IEC, not Peter personally, would monitor the SFS Turks and Caicos program. With that report the corrected minutes were accepted.

Program Review: Europe Subcommittee report

Jannie apologized for the omission of Kent Hooper's reports of his visits to IES Amsterdam and Berlin which the subcommittee received after writing their report. Lynette summarized the report previously circulated from the *Europe Subcommittee*. She noted that lots of evaluations were available for some programs, while there were few or none for some other programs. The subcommittee was pleased with the specialized programs (Budapest Math program for example) but less enthusiastic about the other

programs. Diane added that the subcommittee used 5 criteria established by the committee for program review, paying particular attention to academic, cultural and administrative criteria, with the subcommittee's general recommendation being to explore other options for those weaker programs. They noted that students who had a homestay and took university courses had better experiences and that departments should require these, where offered.

Jannie noted that IP encouraged students to do a homestay and, where qualified, to take university courses. However, many students do self-select and do not want a homestay, with its perceived rules and restrictions. Most homestay programs do have two students for safety reasons and because there is a limited number of homestays available.

Jan and Jannie are looking for motivated students and wondered if the faculty could screen their students. Lynnette and Peter responded that the faculty were often not in a good position to recommend programs, adding that the university should have different options for all students. Lisa noted that the weaker programs seem to attract the less motivated students. Jan added that departments not permitting transfer of credits to the major or minor and finances are important issues which are affecting the students' choices of programs.

John added that the momentum for the original Task Force on Study Abroad was the lack of programs, and if we are to reduce the number of programs this will cause problems. Diane concurred, noted that there will be significantly fewer students studying abroad if the number is reduced to 35 or 40. Jannie noted that the large number of Fulbrights and other prestigious fellowships awarded to Puget Sound students in recent years have been given to students who had studied abroad. Both she and Jan routinely encourage qualified students to meet with Sharon Chambers Gordon and look seriously into applying for these awards.

Lynnette then turned the discussion to the recommendation of the subcommittee to remove IES Rome, the program with the most consistent problems. Although some classes were excellent, the overall program was problematic with negative reviews by almost all the students. Jannie and Jan noted that IP already had several students planning to apply for this program and requested it be put on probation for 09-10, with close monitoring by IP and detailed reports from the students on the program. Jan asked the committee to provide her with questions for the student questionnaire which would provide better information. Given that the time was running out, with some members already leaving for classes, John suggested a probationary year for IES Rome, with careful review of student reviews from the fall 08 program. The committee agreed to postponing a formal vote on this report until the next meeting, thanking the subcommittee members for a substantive report.

Meeting adjourned at 10.01 am.
Respectfully submitted,

Jannie Meisberger