

**International Education Committee Minutes, DRAFT**  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**Committee members present:** Gareth Barkin, Becca Davidson, Lisa Ferrari, Mark Harpring, Diane Kelley, John Lear, Janet Marcavage, Donn Marshall, Jannie Meisberger, Mei Rose, Peter Wimberger

**Meeting convened by Peter at 2pm.**

**Approval of minutes from December 4, 2009 IEC meeting**

- Minutes were approved with minor changes from Jannie.

Peter encourages committee members to remind their students and colleagues of the new GPA eligibility requirements for study abroad programs.

**Selection Committee**

- Discussion of committee to review student applications with below 3.0 GPA.
- Committee comprises: Diane, John, Mei, Donn and Jannie.

**Discussion of new program proposals**

- It was agreed that, if approved, the Uganda; Uganda/Rwanda; Turks & Caicos summer programs need to be re-reviewed in their fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) year.

**Uganda SIT Development Studies program**

- Peter noted that Kathleen Campbell reviewed the program and that Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, director of the IPE program, would like the program available permanently.
- Issues regarding Uganda's "anti-gay law" remain unresolved, but Mark noted that so long as students were aware of the situation, he does not see a problem with approving the program.
- Diane raised a general concern regarding adding new programs – wonders if the committee should be concerned about approving too many.
- Peter noted that Uganda responds to a geographic weakness in our current offerings, and that European programs might be regarded differently. He also noted that it uses the same site as a previously approved program.
- Lisa objected to the "same site" argument, noting that programs need to be looked at individually.

- Lisa voiced reservations about approving both Uganda programs, and noted a preference for the Uganda (not Uganda/Rwanda) SIT program.
- John said he prefers the option of the full semester Uganda/Rwanda program to the summer option, and recommends choosing it over the summer option if there is limited space for new programs.
- John suggested dropping some of the less frequented Europe programs, especially considering the current option of re-adding the program, should a student be sufficiently interested.
- M/S/P: Uganda SIT Development Studies semester program approval.

#### **Uganda and Rwanda: Post-Conflict Transformation (SIT semester program)**

- Diane argued for the Uganda/Rwanda program despite it being another Uganda program, since the focus was different and fits well with the applicant's interest.
- Lisa objected to the program on the basis of it being more about one student's needs than the University's need for the program. Argued this logic will lead to too many programs, and suggested being stringent with regard to such matters. Argued that the need for the program was not compelling, and that the student's case was not sufficiently convincing.
- John noted that it will not be a problem to eliminate the program in the future, if it has not been used for a few years.
- Peter urged committee to evaluate the program on its merits, particularly its benefits to studying conflict resolution in a unique environment.
- Diane voiced concern that the committee's deliberations over how and when a program may be added and removed should not prevent a student from going on a perfectly good and academically appropriate program.
- General discussion of the program proliferation issue. General agreement was reached that summer programs should not be considered part of this issue, and that there was no need to eliminate them in response to a growing number of semester programs.
- M/S/P: Uganda and Rwanda: Post-Conflict Transformation (SIT semester program) approval.

#### **Turks & Caicos summer program**

- Concern was voiced over lack of pre-requisites and the acceptance of high school students into the program.
- Peter spoke to the quality of the program, and the need for a tropical / coral reef study program.

- Gareth voiced concern that the program sounds more like a vacation than an academically rigorous experience. Others countered that reports from students indicate it was actually a lot of work.
- Diane suggested that the student(s) going on the program, pending approval, might be required to present their research at the Summer Science Symposium on campus, to prove they have made good use of the program.
- Question was raised if the committee should require feedback from students on all provisional programs. Peter and Diane raise question of whether credit should be contingent on presentation of findings.
- Mark voiced objection that a requirement to present research findings for just this one program would be inappropriate.
- Lisa noted that the Curriculum Committee will have to review whether the program is approved for academic credit anyway. After some discussion, the committee was unsure of their procedure, and whether they will really need to approve it.
- M/S/P: Turks & Caicos summer program approval.
- Peter noted it will be sent to the Curriculum Committee with the recommendation that students be asked to present their findings upon return from the program.

#### **Maximum allowable semesters abroad**

- Peter noted that, last year, the rule that students can only spend two (2) semesters abroad was passed, but questions remain about its implementation.
- Discussion over whether students who matriculated before the change in rules should be exempt from it, especially in the case of students who have already spent a semester abroad but were interested in going on the year-long Pac Rim program.
- Diane and John argued that those students should not be penalized since they could not know of the change in advance.
- Jannie proposed a grandfathering policy where only new students were bound to the rule.
- M/S/P: that the 2-semester limit for study abroad apply to students who have transferred or matriculated to the University in Fall 2009 or later.

Brief discussion of the agenda for the next IEC meeting.

**Peter adjourned meeting at 3:05pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Gareth Barkin