

September 9, 2009

International Education Committee meeting minutes

Committee members present: Gareth Barkin, Lisa Ferrari, Mark Harpring, Diane Kelley, John Lear, Janet Marcavage, Donn Marshall, Jan Moore, Mei Rose, Don Share, Peter Wimberger.

Members absent: Jannie Meisberger.

Richard Anderson-Connolly, representing the Faculty Senate, convened the meeting at 8am.

Discussion and review of previous year's business

- Review of programs was completed
- Budgeting constraints were discussed
- It was noted that, starting in the academic year 2011-12, all study abroad programs will be in one category. Students will be charged Puget Sound fees for semester/full year programs and will be able to apply any federal/state loans and institutional aid (grants and scholarships) up to their demonstrated need as determined by the FAFSA reporting forms.
- There had been a focus on bringing greater balance to the selection of programs with regard to geography, discipline, and types of programs.
- John Lear raised the issue of ending the moratorium on bringing in new programs; the administration's goal of reducing the number of programs while still allowing for new ones was discussed.

Election of Chair

After a discussion among committee members, Mark Harpring and Peter Wimberger agree to be co-chairs of the committee for the academic year, with the committee's support.

Meeting Time

After a lengthy discussion of alternatives, it is agreed that the IEC will meet every other Friday at 8am, with the next meeting on Friday, 18 September. Additional meetings might be held on alternate Fridays, as needed.

Proposed Charges for 2009-2010 Discussion

"Proposed Charges for 2009-2010" handout was distributed to the committee.

- Committee members discuss the issue of students exhausting the study abroad budget because of limited funds.
- Question raised: if limits have to be imposed, how will they be determined, and what criteria will be used?

- There is an inquiry regarding a recommendation sent to Dean Bartanen at the end of the previous year regarding this issue; committee has not yet heard back; Lisa Ferrari notes that she will follow up on this.
 - Committee members note that we will need to know the number of students who *want* to study abroad this year, to see if there is any notable shift — Jan Moore questions whether Student Life is still conducting surveys regarding this subject (and among returning study abroad students). It is concluded that their committee has not yet decided, but that the IEC should keep in touch with them to find out.
 - Some committee members suggest the IEC should take over this survey from Student Life, however this suggestion be deferred until the IEC hears back from that committee.
 - John Lear proposes that the committee develop a system for lifting the moratorium on new programs.
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- The issue of reviewing existing programs is raised — in particular:
 - The Pacific Rim program was not reviewed recently.
 - Delhi and Rome programs which are on probation.
 - Spanish program has proposed shifting to a different Buenos Aires program.
 - Jan Moore explains current issues with course evaluation forms that Kathleen Campbell receives electronically.
 - It is proposed that the IEC arrange one or more forum for informing faculty about changes in study abroad policies, including new financial constraints, as well as the approval forms.
 - Jan Moore brings up the need to create a “selection committee,” which Jannie Meisberger usually suggests to the committee, to set admission standards.
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- John Lear discusses the environment surrounding the previous review of programs.
 - Question of whether the IEC should consider approving new programs when the administration apparently wants us to cut the total number of available programs to between forty and fifty.
 - Lisa Ferrari notes that the administration is looking for more streamlined management of programs, which this reduced number would facilitate.
 - Jan Moore mentions how consolidation of the numbering system for abroad programs has led to fewer programs on the record.
 - Lisa Ferrari notes that we should consider different sites’ quality, even if they are administered by the same organization, and not focus on consolidating the numbering system.
 - John Lear argues for the need to add programs occasionally, even if the overall number of programs needs to be kept low.
 - Question of whether to allow well qualified students to sign up for new programs on a “one time basis” is raised.

- Chairs agree to meet to tighten up the Proposed Charges document.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:05AM

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gareth Barkin