

International Education Committee Minutes
November 20, 2009 8 a.m.

Committee members present: Gareth Barkin, Becca Davidson, Jessy Arends, Mark Harpring, Diane Kelley, Janet Marcavage, Donn Marshall, Jan Moore, Jannie Meisberger, Mei Rose, Peter Wimberger

Minutes from October 13 2009 MSP with minor changes.

Communication to solicit unidentified study abroad needs: Mark proposed finding the best way to contact individual departments about their study abroad needs. Peter contributed by discussing his experience with the Biology department where he broached the topic via departmental meeting. Further, Peter suggested the need to communicate IEC's new development and changes resulting in the solicitation of individual departments about their unidentified needs in study abroad programs. Discussions then focused on the letter to be distributed to individual departments and Mark offered to revise and distribute the letter via e-mail before Thanksgiving break. The e-mail will also inform individual departments that they will be contacted by their designated IEC liaisons in the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester.

IEC liaison with individual departments: Mark distributed a list of departments and discussion followed to streamline redundant or irrelevant departments on the list. This is followed by assignments of IEC members as liaison to departments on the list. The assignments are as follows:

Mei Rose

- Business and Leadership
- Economics
- Music
- Psychology

Peter Wimberger

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Policy and Decision Making
- Exercise Science
- Biology
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Science, Technology, and Society

Don Share

- International Political Economy
- Politics and government

John Lear

- History
- Latin American Studies

Mark Harpring

- Foreign Language and Literature
- Classics
- Theatre

Diane Kelley

- English
- Communication Studies

Gareth Barkin

- Asian Studies
- Comparative Sociology
- Religion

Janet Marcavage

- Art
- Philosophy

Criteria for study abroad: Peter provided a summary of the previous year's discussions on criteria for study abroad as a result of the Study Abroad Work Group (SAWG) report recommendation. A major consideration was the escalating cost for study abroad programs. While IEC discussions of several criterion, such as GPA, for example, found little financial impact, further discussion is now required because the University's Budget Task Force had set a budget for study abroad that was not there in the past. Kris Bartanen suggested that IEC should provide some general criterion for study abroad programs to stay within budget. Considerations include revisiting previously discussed criteria, identifying alternative solutions, and possibly ordering criterion by importance.

Alternative solutions: The discussion for alternative solutions must consider both the importance of the culture and language experience, as well as academic rigor and contribution. Brainstorming for alternative solutions resulted in the following ideas:

- Reduce English speaking study abroad programs first.
- Discuss financial aid packages to fund study abroad.
- Encourage participation in Summer study abroad programs.

Encourage participation in Summer programs: Diane suggested that the University could offer scholarships to encourage participation in Summer study abroad programs. In general, the cost of Summer programs are less expensive compared to the Fall or Spring semester programs due to program duration. A Fall or Spring semester program could possibly fund 3 to 4 Summer programs. Jannie noted that while Summer programs may be less expensive, airfares in the Summer are generally more expensive. Concerns were raised about the merits of Summer programs in terms of cultural and language emergence due to the duration of the program. Peter noted that Summer programs are a good avenue for field projects and gaining cultural experience. Other concern including how to formulate programs for credit in the Summer.

Evaluation of PacRim program: The subcommittee (Gareth, Diane, and Mei) for evaluating the PacRim program will meet next week and provide a report at the next committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53am, with grateful thanks to Mark for providing delicious muffins for the work accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Mei Rose