

Minutes of the International Education Committee, October 15, 2010

Present: Gareth Barkin, Lisa Ferrari, Lisa Griswold, Diane Kelly, Jan Moore, Don Share, Peter Wimberger (chair), and Kelly Wyman.

Guests, Elizabeth Benard, Karl Fields, and Stuart Smithers

Peter convened the meeting at 12 p.m. Minutes, as amended, were approved.

Karl Fields (Politics and Government, Director of Asian Studies), Elizabeth Benard (Religion), and Stuart Smithers (Religion), three Asian Studies faculty members closely associated with the Pacific Rim Program addressed the IEC to raise concerns about how recent changes in Puget Sound's study abroad structure could negatively impact the Pacific Rim Program (PR). Under the new system students are limited in the amount of financial aid they can apply toward study abroad. The Asian Studies visitors reported that students are starting to realize that there are financial implications of the new system, and that some accepted PR students are saying that they cannot go because the program is unaffordable without financial aid. The new rules will likely dissuade some of the most capable students from applying to PR since their merit scholarship money may not apply to the PR program. They pointed out that PR is the only entirely intramural study abroad at Puget Sound. They argued that any merit scholarship money from PR students should be available for use in the program. They pointed out that the program is a major recruitment benefit for the university, and that the new restrictions will negatively impact our ability to recruit good students. The negative impact on the university is double, since this is a two-semester program.

Diane said that she was under the impression that Asian studies scholarship money would apply to PR. Karl Fields said that the Asian Studies Program does have a number of funds to help students with study abroad, and some are not need based. Those funds will apply to PR. But merit based scholarships for four years and two years are not available to students who don't have demonstrated financial need. Those students are the most hurt by the new rules.

Jan supported the concerns of Asian Studies. She added that some of the applicants who matriculated under the old system are not impacted negatively. But 14 of the 26 students slated to go on the next PR roster fall under the new plan. The fact that we have two groups in different situations makes the situation very difficult.

Elizabeth Benard noted that unused PR funds are regularly returned to the university. She said that some students feel that they were surprised by "fine print" of the new regulations. Lisa said that the new regulations have been made very clear and that this is not a case of fine print. Elizabeth responded that students are given mixed messages when they are given money to come to UPS and to focus on Asia, but are then prohibited from using some of it for PR, our flagship study abroad program.

Diane says that FLL raised similar concerns and raised similar issues with the administration, but that the administration refused to alter the program. Both Diane and Karl acknowledged that the intramural nature of the PR program makes it more likely that the administration would change the policy, but

Diane said that if PR gets a waiver from the current policy, FLL would press its own claim, even if the Asian Studies case is a bit different. Diane asked whether all students on intramural programs should be allowed to use all financial aid.

Karl said that the PR program costs Puget Sound nothing and Elizabeth adds that it pays university overhead and even returns a surplus.

Jan said she is most concerned about different policies applying to different sets of applicants in the short term, but acknowledged the long term problems is also serious.

Peter noted that it would be ideal to have more intramural programs in which Puget Sound faculty have more control over the curriculum, and that PR is an ideal model. Peter says we shouldn't penalize the best such model that we have.

Gareth asked what IEC could do to rectify this situation. Peter suggested that the IEC could write a memo to Dean Bartanen noting the problems of the new system, and recommending that students in any intramural study abroad programs should have access to financial aid.

Gareth noted that without a change in policy a student accepted to PR could decide not to go, and then could stay here and use financial aid.

Diane asked about PR costs compared to other programs. Karl says that over the 15 years of PR the program regularly returns with a surplus that goes back into the university budget.

Elizabeth noted that students on PR also spend about \$7000 above and beyond UPS tuition and room and board for airfare and other expenses, so PR is particularly costly for students. Jan noted that for all other study abroad students about \$5000 per semester in additional expenses is the average.

Karl asked whether IEC had other recommendations about how to proceed, noting that Asian Studies doesn't want to appear to bypass the IEC. Members of the IEC recommended that Asian Studies best meet with Dean Bartanen, and that the IEC would support Asian Studies on that issue.

Lisa noted that the administration may treat study abroad as one budgetary unit, and that the university does pay a cost when students leave campus to study abroad.

Diane asked about surplus that comes from PR. Lisa replied that the surplus goes into the budget to support general projects of the university, though some is set aside for the future of PR. Lisa also pointed out that the current university budget is extremely tight.

The IEC agreed to have Peter draft a memo recommending support for Asian Studies on this matter.

The three visitors from Asian Studies then left the meeting.

Peter then distributed Eric Orlin's proposal to add a 6 week program in the Summer Archaeology Field School run by the American Institute for Roman Culture. He noted that we currently have no archaeology study abroad programs. Lisa noted that the program is being specially designed for us.

Gareth noted a dearth of those programs and the student demand them. Jan noted that we lost the College Year in Athens program. Peter noted that the proposed program replaces Doug Edwards' archaeology program. The IEC approved sending the program to Kathleen Campbell for her evaluation.

The IEC considered the South Korea CIEE program evaluation from Kathleen Campbell. Kathleen recommended approval of the program. Diane questioned about the availability of courses for the student who proposed the addition of the program. Jan said this matter had been resolved. Jan noted increased student demand for a Korea program.

Diane suggested that the addition of a new program be advertised in some way. Kelly suggested that Asian studies students and faculty be made aware of the addition of this program.

The IEC South Korea program was approved unanimously.

Lisa raised the question again about the proposal process for adding new programs. She asked if the IEC should add programs even when individual's proposed reasons for participation is weak. She wondered whether the IEC is approving the program or the individual's application and reasons for wanting to add that program. Diane said that both are important. Peter suggested we look at the proposal form at our next meeting.

Jan distributed the proposal to reinstate of Kings College London, through Butler's Institute for Study Abroad, with a theater emphasis.

Peter raised an issue about travel warnings. The Madagascar travel warning has been lifted. Does the IEC need to re-evaluate the program, which had been approved before the warning, if the State Department warning is lifted? IEC members supported simply putting program back on the list. Gareth noted that there can be a "lag" after a travel ban is lifted.

Jan asked whether a list of questions could be developed to assess when programs are deemed to be safe for travel. Peter suggests that Jan, Lisa, and John Hickey draft a set of procedures and then bring them to IEC for input.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Submitted by Don Share