

International Education Committee Minutes
Oct. 29, 2010

Committee members present: Gareth Barkin, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, Janet Marcavage, Donn Marshall, Jan Moore, Peter Wimberger, Michael Johnson, Tanya Stambuk, Lisa Griswold, and Kelly Wyman.

Meeting convened by Peter at 3pm.

Minutes from Oct. 15th meeting, as amended, were approved.

Announcements:

Peter announced that Karl Fields is planning on meeting with Kris to discuss Pac Rim program. Peter will send our minutes to Kris prior to their meeting.

Jan announced that there was a pre-departure meeting for students who will be studying abroad. 120 students attended. 10 were not present but meetings will be rescheduled for them.

Peter announced that the pre-departure survey went out and there was a 40% response rate. The post-departure survey had a similar response rate.

Gareth announced that his course abroad in Indonesia was approved. Gareth passed out a flyer with information regarding the course and an interest meeting to be held on Wed., Nov. 3rd. The class will consist of an evening seminar and a three-week trip. The focus will be on case studies in Southeast Asia, particularly Indonesia. They will visit the university in Jakarta and do an ethnographic project in the area. Students will be matched with Indonesian students there. The class will likely meet once a week for about two hours. It will be a full unit course. Gareth is still making revisions to the syllabus. The cost of the program will be added to student expenses. It may increase the financial aid that they receive.

Gareth announced that Eric Orlin is interested in a similar course in archaeology, where there might be three weeks of field activities in Rome.

Proposal process for adding new programs

Peter posed the question, Should we accept proposals for programs when student proposals are weak? Peter asked for volunteers to form a subcommittee to look at the proposal form and suggest revisions. Lisa F., Diane, and Kelly volunteered. They will be in consultation with Jan and were asked to bring suggestions to our next meeting.

Recommendation for New Program, AIRC in Rome

Kathleen Campbell evaluated and recommended this program. One unit of transfer credit was recommended. Gareth mentioned that it should count as a CSOC elective. Lisa F. said that this decision gets made through the department. The committee voted on and approved the AIRC/Rome program.

Reinstatement of King's College Program

A student proposed the reinstatement of this program. This program was previously removed due to a surplus of programs in England.

Jan handed out a list of programs that were reviewed.

Peter stated that when the Kings College program was removed, the Theater Arts department expressed concern, as this program was of interest to their students. Previously the program was an approved program, so students couldn't carry their Puget Sound Institutional Aid.

Donn brought up a concern regarding reinstating a full-year program for a three-week component (at the Globe Theatre). Gareth replied that we have to have the full-year component in order to have the three-week component at the Globe.

Diane stated that we should approve the program.

Peter stated that our concerns are geographic and disciplinary; this program serves disciplinary needs.

Lisa F. asked if there were questions regarding the quality of the program when it was cut. Diane was on the committee when cuts were made and did not recall any concern with the quality of this program.

The committee voted and approved the King's College program, which will be sent on to Kathleen Campbell.

Peter reported that department surveys tell us that departments do not feel that there is a huge need for study abroad programs. He doesn't suspect that we will be inundated with more proposals.

Pac Rim Program Financial Aid

Peter provided the committee with a draft of bullet points to present to Kris.

Diane asked if the points for Kris are talking about all of Puget Sound's programs, or just Pac Rim? Our students attend a program in Dijon at a university where there are no program costs. Sometimes Puget Sound professors go to the Oaxaca program, as with Pac Rim. Faculty does not, however, go to Dijon.

Peter asked, What is our hierarchy of concern?

Diane responded that whether faculty attend or not and students financial aid were priorities.

Gareth stated that Pac Rim is a priority since it has faculty chosen by Puget Sound. Jan stated that the only distinction with Pac Rim from the other programs is how we award academic credit.

Peter stated that the Registrar's office, at one point, felt that students should get full financial aid.

Gareth pointed out that the course credit appears on Puget Sound transcripts.

Lisa F. pointed out two things that struck her on the draft of bullet points for Kris:

1. "In-house programs are less expensive" Lisa F. stated that this depends on how you calculate expense. There are expenses for instructors, relief for courses, support services and liability costs with in-house programs, therefore this may not be an effective argument.

2. The argument is premised on the new financial policy being unfair and asking why can't there be an exception to the policy?

Lisa F. suggested looking at how we look at study abroad programs

Diane suggested that we should focus on the Pac Rim program only.

Donn pointed out that the strength of the Pac Rim program is that it is ours in a way that no other programs are.

Peter pointed out a similarity with Whitman College's Semester in the West program, where their students travel throughout the West.

Several committee members agreed that Pac Rim should be stated as *our* program.

Peter stated that at a study abroad conference, he was told that programs are less expensive when run by their institutions. Donn said that we could state that "it is our understanding that it is less expensive..."

Peter said that at the all-campus meeting led by Kris last year, faculty raised concern about the academic quality in abroad programs. Developing our own programs could alleviate this concern. Kris and Karl Fields will meet on Nov. 10th. Peter will email a new draft of points before their meeting.

Jan reminded us that there are two groups with different financial aid models for attending the Pac Rim program.

Peter felt that students attending Pac Rim should be treated as Puget Sound students with financial aid.

Study Abroad Department Surveys

Mark Harpring collated departmental responses from the study abroad survey. The Art department had the most detailed responses. FLIA had many comments. There was less response from Math and Science.

Peter will email the responses to everyone. Gareth has CSOC responses and will send this to Peter.

We will look for gaps in program offerings, including re-looking at Australia and Chile for possible redundancies.

Peter adjourned the meeting at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Marcavage