

## **Meeting of the International Education Committee**

February 18, 2011

Wyatt 326

**Committee members present:** Lisa Griswold, Mark Harpring, Michael Johnson, Jan Moore, Jill Nealey-Moore, Tanya Stambuk, Peter Wimberger, Kelly Wyman

Michael J. called the meeting to order at 9:05.

### **Announcements**

Mark H. announced that students participating in the upcoming Pac Rim trip would be on the same pricing models. Students going on the Pac Rim program next year will receive all of their UPS merit aid. Mark's impression was that this would be a one-time exception for students going on the Pac Rim program so, given the frequency of the program, all students will be on the same pricing model. Peter W. asked if any reasons were stated as to why UPS aid above FAFSA need was not going to be approved for the Pac Rim program in the future. Mark H. stated that there was no clarification on the matter. The committee expressed concern on this issue for the following reasons:

- Students are given course credit in this program as a UPS course

- Faculty are hired UPS faculty

- UPS offers financial aid packets to its students yet financial aid will not be provided for students participating in our signature study abroad program

Jan reminded us that the new Pac Rim applicants would be selected next February.

Peter W. made an announcement concerning tuition remission benefits. He stated that children of staff and faculty who attend UPS have always been able to use their tuition remission benefits to study abroad. This year they will still be able to use tuition remission for study abroad because it is still considered an employee benefit as opposed to a scholarship. However, Maggie Mittuch informed Peter that their offices were examining the situation and the tuition remission status may be reclassified. Students receiving tuition remission benefits may not be able to apply these benefits to study abroad programs in future years.

Minutes from February 4, 2011 meeting were corrected and approved.

### **Student Survey**

Mark H. contacted Lisa Ferrari to get some feedback from Kris Bartanen regarding the committee's plan to survey students who may be planning to apply for study abroad programs. Mark was told that Kris would like to wait a year to obtain the data that will be gathered from student financial services. Jan M. stated that students have been going to their student financial counselors and if they have completed their FAFSA form, chances are they will receive the aid they need in order to participate in a study abroad program. In addition, all of our program providers offer additional scholarships. Mark H. stated that Kris Bartanen is interested and willing to meet with the committee so that we can discuss these issues. Peter W. raised a concern that if we only look at students who go to the study abroad office or financial services, we may just be getting a biased sample. There may be some students who feel that they cannot pursue or afford a study abroad program because they have scholarships that are above and beyond the FAFSA needs. The committee believes that it would be beneficial to survey a larger pool of students so that the data gathered would be more complete and substantial. The committee also agreed that

it would be best to collect the data as soon as possible rather than wait until next spring. Committee members decided that a short survey, which targets sophomores, might be the best approach to collecting the necessary data.

Jan M. stated that at this time she has over 300 applicants for next year, whereas in previous years there have been approximately 200 applicants. Members of the committee mentioned that this happens to be a large sophomore class, which may contribute to the high level of applicants for the study abroad programs. Due to the early deadline application date, some faculty members stated that more students have applied but these students may still be indecisive about their plans to study off campus.

The committee thought it would be helpful to ask Kris Bartanen to come discuss the Pac Rim program, the student survey and tuition remission issue at the next meeting on March 4, 2011. Mark H. agreed to arrange this meeting.

### **Symposium for Returning Students**

The committee decided that it would be good to go forward with establishing a welcome back evening for students returning from study abroad. The committee discussed the purpose of the event. Members commented that the event could help promote the study abroad programs, help reacclimate returning students, welcome students back to campus and give students a forum to share and integrate their experiences to the campus community. Jan M. stated that a welcome back event usually is held every fall in early September. She continued that it used to be held in the evening with a dinner, and then it changed to a late afternoon dessert event. The turnout usually consisted of fifty percent of the returning students. As the theme of the event changed from a dinner to dessert event, fewer students attended. Committee members agreed that students should take ownership of the event perhaps through

slide shows and/or presentations. The committee agreed that the event should include a dinner. Peter W. asked how much money was reserved for such an event. Jan stated that they were budgeting around \$700 a semester.

Jan M. and Michael J. agreed to work out a structure and schedule for this event. Peter W. suggested that information about the event could be sent out to students who are abroad now so that they can begin preparation for a poster or slide show presentation. Jan M. suggested that we include a notice to those students who returned from the fall study abroad program and invite them to participate in the event as well. The committee agreed that departments should still hold their separate events for returning study abroad students.

The meeting ended at 9:55 am. This committee will next meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9am.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Stambuk