

## Meeting of the International Education Committee

March 4, 2011 Wyatt 326

**Committee members present:** Lisa Griswold, Michael Johnson, Jan Moore, Peter Wimberger, Kelly Wyman, Donn Marshall, Diane Kelley

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

### Announcements

Michael announced that Dean Bartanen would not be joining us for this meeting, but hopes we will be able to have her join IEC in the near future.

Jan announced Peter Stevenson, a grad from 2009, has started a business *Snow or Sand Student Travel Solutions*.

Jan announced that a student has applied for the Gilman scholarship for Japan and that Jan has also submitted material in support of students applying for IES scholarships.

Peter asked about conditions for our students studying in Christchurch following the earthquake there. Jan reported that they had all successfully transitioned to Auckland.

Minutes - Minutes from February 18, 2011 meeting were reviewed, revised, and approved.

Pac Rim – Concern about pricing models. Peter reiterated concerns that this is a Puget Sound program in all the same ways that a Geology field-based program is. Students receive Puget Sound credit, faculty are hired by UPS and the courses have to be approved by our curriculum committee. Michael asked how Pac Rim is different than a program that includes international travel following a semester of study on campus. We are interested in hearing about justification for the current plan which limits Puget Sound aid, with hopes that this might be reconsidered. The current pricing plan seems inconsistent as we understand it. Final answers need to be in place no later than next February when Pac Rim applications will be completed.

Tuition remission benefit – Do students receiving tuition remission get to take that funding on study abroad? Jan pointed out that the “tuition exchange” benefit may be a different question than about tuition remission for students studying here.

Student survey - Michael asked what we should ask of Dean Bartanen. Diane suggested there are already data available, perhaps in Financial Services, that would allow us to answer our questions without doing a survey. Perhaps there are large numbers of students on merit aid, or perhaps this affects relatively few. Peter suggested we could go directly to Maggie Mittuch to ask the following:

- How many students in a total class size are receiving merit aid above FAFSA?
- How many students are getting merit aid only, and not submitting a FAFSA?
- How many of these have a 2.5 GPA or better?
- Of students eligible to study abroad, how many would be impacted by new financial aid rules?

Peter asked how these answers would determine whether we think we don't need to do a survey. Diane suggested we might want to do a survey anyway. Peter noted that it could go one of two ways: We could find that there is little or no impact, or we could find many students not considering study abroad because of the financial structuring.

Donn noted concerns about over surveying. Diane noted that our questions about this specific topic could be ones that students would like to provide feedback about.

Jan noted that there have been prior efforts to raise money for scholarships to support study abroad. Collecting the data above could provide support for these efforts if we found that funding difficulties were discouraging student applicants.

Michael questioned if faculty-developed summer programs were more economical. If so, the findings of a survey could support institutional support for faculty developing like programs.

Michael proposed that we spend remaining meeting time developing survey questions. Peter commented that Dean Bartanen will likely want to know what sort of things we want to ask, so having specifics in mind will help. Diane suggested we could do two surveys, one for students who applied for study abroad, and one for those who did not.

Jan noted that on entry students are surveyed about their interest in study abroad. She gets these data from Jack Roundy.

**Proposed survey content**

***Did you apply for study abroad?***

***If no, why?***

***GPA***

***Extracurricular commitments***

***Financial aid***

***Major, too many required courses***

***Other*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Were you considering studying abroad when you arrived here? Or, did you consider applying during your first two years in college?***

***Do you receive Puget Sound financial aid?***

***Merit aid?***

***Did you complete FAFSA?***

***Need-based aid?***

***Did your family fill out a FAFSA?***

***Does your merit aid exceed FAFSA demonstrated need?***

***Yes –***

***Did this affect your consideration of applying to study abroad? Yes – No***

***If yes, how?***

***No***

***Don't know***

After we draft language, we will want to have Maggie Mittuch review it to be sure that we are using terms consistent with institutional use and student understandings.

#### Semester at Sea & Sea Semester

Jan has been asked by Dean Bartanen about these programs. Peter noted that Mark Harpring also asked about these programs. Peter noted that the Sea Semester is run through Woods Hole and we have had students on these programs for longer than he has been here. He reported this seems to be a great program. Peter reported that some years ago the Dean of this program came here and pitched that these programs should be considered study abroad. The academic administration at that point was not persuaded. UVA took over Semester at Sea maybe three years ago. Consideration in IEC ensued about the quality of the Semester at Sea program. Peter noted these two programs fall between being national and international programs. Jan noted that in terms of liability, it would be beneficial to have a formal oversight via International Education office. We are unsure why these questions have come up at this point.

Jan sent a message to all fall returning study abroad students telling them we expected to have a gathering with them soon. Jan heard back from a student who is already preparing a poster related to her studies while abroad.

Michael J. brought the meeting to a close at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donn Marshall