

**Minutes of the International Education Committee**  
**March 25, 2011**

Present: Mark Harpring, Michael Johnson, Diane Kelley, Jan Moore, Tanya Stambuk, Peter Wimberger, Kelly Wyman. Absent: Lisa Griswold, Donn Marshall, Jill Nealey-Moore, Don Share

Special Guest: Dean Kris Bartanen

Announcements –

Jan Moore reported that after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, all UPS students are safely home. The Waseda and IES Tokyo programs are cancelled, and the two spring IES Tokyo students are deferred to fall. Puget Sound campus offices did a great job accommodating these students.

Jan also reported that IFSA Butler has cancelled the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester abroad program (begins in July) in Christchurch and Canterbury in New Zealand. We are not sure yet whether IES Christchurch is still on for the upcoming session. IES Christchurch moved to the unapproved IES Auckland program. Jan requested that Puget Sound change their approved program from IES to IFSA Butler for all New Zealand and Australia programs in order to have approved options in case of disasters. We currently only have one IES program in Australia in Melbourne. This program can change to an IFSA Butler program, as can IES Christchurch in New Zealand. She requests that the IEC look at websites and review these programs.

Minutes from 3/4/11 M/S/P with corrections

Michael affirmed our goals for this meeting with Kris. We have three questions about the new financial aid structure and its effect on students.

1. How it will affect students' ability to participate in study abroad?

Kris reported that in fiscal year 2012 we are reducing university budget by 1.7 million. The academic budget will decrease by \$99K. We have a declining endowment and a smaller first-year class this year that will affect the next four years. In our long range plan for 2013-15, we still need to cut 1million from the university budget, and 600K of that needs come from the academic budget. Also as a reminder, in 2006-09 the BTF added 1 million to the study abroad budget for a total of 3million, which is a big addition to account for the increase in participation. We have about 40% student participation. The policy change is that now, for students matriculating in fall 2009 and after, all study abroad programs are in one category and students must pay Puget Sound tuition when going abroad; students who are on merit aid can only apply merit aid above their FAFSA need to tuition while on study abroad. This does not seem to have affected the number of students studying abroad because the percentage of students applying is steady. OIP does not report any concerns raised by students as they apply. There has been no

big wave of students complaining. Students and their families got information in writing before their enrollment in the fall. The policy was explained in the freshman and sophomore study abroad meetings. Communication has been reasonable and people have been encouraged to plan ahead. Will our best and brightest be able to finance their study abroad? There are SA scholarships still available and they are exempted from consideration in the formula that determines financial aid. If a student has a top trustee scholarship, they would receive \$12K per year for 4 years (\$48K total) – and this will even carry over to an extra semester if needed. If this student wants to go abroad, will lose \$6K. But he has no demonstrated financial need. If the student wants to go abroad for a year, will lose \$12K. And the Trustee scholarship (merit aid) has gone up to \$15K/year for the incoming freshman.

Mark asked if the Trustee scholarship the highest award amounts, and Kris responded that there are two others, the Newcomb (1-2 students a year, for highly capable students with high need) and the Lillis scholarships, and they are both exempted.

Peter asked how do we give everyone the opportunity to go abroad? This new model levels the playing field because we now have one model. Jan pointed out that under the old model, sometimes the fees were less than tuition.

Discussion continued. The IEC would like to survey students about this new policy. Without a survey, students who are prevented from going abroad are not accounted for as we gather information. Academic programming is the interest of the IEC and we want to understand what we might need to think about. Having some data is better than no data. OIP and SFS only have data for students who are going.

Kris pointed out that we don't have that data from the past, either. She is concerned that one more survey will create an issue where there is not one. She asked if the IEC wants to undermine the policy.

The IEC members indicated that this was not their intention. Diane suggested that if SFS is too busy now, we can wait to get the data that they do have until the summer. Peter pointed out that we are bringing up concerns brought to us by faculty. How can we respond to them? With the data, we would be able to say that it has very little impact.

Kris suggested we respond to the faculty by saying that merit aid is not discretionary. Everybody with a comp score of a 1350 SAT and a 4.0 automatically gets a Trustee scholarship. Diane asked how many students like that are there. Kris said she does not have the numbers with her, but definitely more than 2.

Jan reminded us to spread the word to faculty to direct students to SFS.

Kris said the university will be looking at data this summer. Michael said that this was our plan, and reiterated that we are not trying to undermine. But we would like to look at the data to see if there is a problem.

Members concurred that they would like to see the data after the summer and if there is need for a survey consider that in the fall. Mark pointed out that the response rate of surveys is low. Peter said that a few years ago the SA survey had a higher than normal response rate. And hopefully a fall survey would get better results since there are fewer surveys in the fall.

Summer – get the data, the committee can work on that in the fall. Mark – don't get a lot of response in surveys. What about that? Peter – SA survey had a higher response rate years ago. Hopefully better response in fall.

Question 2: Can students on tuition exchange use it for study abroad tuition?

Kris says YES students can use it for study abroad. It is a benefit to employees and not financial aid.

Question 3: Students going on the Pac Rim program next year are grandfathered in to the old policy. Will this always be the case?

Kris explained that the 11/12 Pac Rim sophomores are exempted because of miscommunication as part of their process. It is also awkward to have students going on the same program under different financial aid policies. After this we will treat all programs similarly. We still have costs from those programs such as lodging and food here on campus that we need their money to pay for. It is a cost like paying a program provider. Fixed costs here at the university need to get paid. Students going on the 2-week program to Indonesia are paying for it themselves. Non-credit ones who went with Jim McCullough on the Cambodia/Thailand trip also paid for it by themselves.

Peter pointed out that Pac Rim is not a regular study abroad program because it is the only fully Puget Sound program. In-house programs guarantee academic quality and tend to be less expensive. There is not much incentive to develop in-house programs if students have to pay for it or not take their PS aid with them. Hard to believe there will be a ton of short term programs that will come up. The financial impact of 2-3 students being grandfathered in on Pac Rim is relatively small. (Kris pointed out that this is roughly the equivalent of 2 Foreign Languages and Literature operating budgets.) Peter said that this is a relatively small cost for a distinctive program.

Kris said there are 4 students affected, and for those it is costing the university \$44K. Doing that again for the whole group would be expensive. Other things would have to be cut from an

already tight university budget. She said she understands our intentions, but these are hard choices.

Jan reminded the committee to have students look at summer opportunities for study abroad.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54am.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kelley