

International Education Committee Meeting
September 13, 2013
Minutes

Present: Gareth Barkin, Rachel DeMotts, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, Michael Johnson, Pepa Lago, Allyson Lindsley, Donn Marshall, Stephanie Noss, Roy Robinson, Matt Warning, Peter Wimberger.

Senate Chair Brad Dillman convened the meeting and aided with the selection of the chair. He then presented the charges proposed by the IEC last year currently under consideration by the Senate.

Committee chair election: Diane Kelley volunteered for the Fall and Matt Warning will serve in the Spring.

Possible times to meet: The group agreed to meet every other Friday at 9:00 in Wyatt 226.

Discussion of the charges:

Charge # 1. Review the current list of study abroad programs and eliminate expensive programs that do not provide something distinctive (i.e. language, discipline or geography).

Exchange programs would help keeping money in, and bring international students. For next time, we will generate list of most expensive programs. Also, we will look at programs that students haven't gone to the last few years. Another place to examine are programs with direct enrollment. When asked about cutting programs, there were no clear responses from department chairs.

Charge # 2. Work with Dean Bartanen and FVP Mondou to consider models for rolling over some or all surplus study abroad funds. These funds could provide a buffer to allow more students to study abroad in years of high demand and be used to fund the development of more Puget Sound short-term study away programs.

Peter explained the study abroad budget. Demand for study abroad is volatile, some years we underspend, in which case it would be good to roll over money not spent. Last year some students were told they couldn't go. It was the first time, and it could happen again. It is important to find a way to make sure all students interested can go.

Roy shared that right now we will have surplus. Every year a "guesstimation" of expenses is done, and they accept students to that level. Generally there is enough melt that money will be remaining. Over \$100,000 is left but that money goes to other parts of budget that are red. Budget total is \$3 million. Funding for faculty-led programs is being examined so they can be supported. Money to set up new

programs is needed too. Australian programs are getting expensive. It is important to look at exchange programs so the money stays here.

Charge # 3. Once the financial model is resolved, revise the short-term study abroad guide for faculty and develop a clear template for proposing, organizing and leading short-term study abroad programs.

Charge #4. Work with the Office of Institutional Research to evaluate the questions addressing study abroad that are currently on sophomore and senior surveys, as well as the returning questionnaire for study abroad students. The committee should attempt to identify clear questions for which the response will be useful to the institution.

Charge #5. Continue to work with faculty to encourage the integration of study abroad experiences into on-campus classes and research symposia, and work with the SLC and Dean of Students to encourage integration of study abroad experiences into co-curricular activities.

A sexual assault work group, charged by VP/DoS Mike Segawa, was convened last year and is wrapping up its final report now. (Donn participated in that group.) It will be useful to talk to them to know about policies, what students need to know. This discussion about sexual assault risk on student abroad did not come up in that work group, but it should have. Doing preventive work prior to going is a priority. Committee agreed that this is a charge the committee should examine. Especially with study abroad providers, we need to know about their policies and how they will affect our studies. As a result of this discussion the committee agreed to add a sixth charge to the ones already being considered:

Charge # 6. Determine what information study abroad students receive about sexual assault before they leave to study abroad and also what information they may get about how to report an incident of sexual assault should it happen.

Some other topics to consider might be to look at the Michel Rocchi International District for students who have been abroad. Work with that group of students to showcase their activities and work. Ideas for activities with that group would be welcome. Some ideas include evenings to attend meals, movies, slide shows, presentations, etc. Challenge: MRID is located in three different locations within the building. Access from one to the other is not easy.

Peter posed a question: Students coming back from more experiential programs have a disaffected attitude when they are back in the classroom. How to engage them in a better way when they are back in the classroom?

The number of international students is down this year from 10 to 8: from Spain and Canada. It would be good to increase these numbers. The role of the committee could be to steer discussion, put pressure, add weight to the conversation. We have so few that we don't even make the list of universities with an international student

population. Some reasons: there's not an effort, not a priority, not a lot of scholarships. Other institutions have agreements with partner institutions, or have a population of students not seeking a degree. UPS requires both TOEFL and SAT while other institutions don't. We cannot change policies but we can make recommendations to increase intl. student presence, and create relationships with the university that eventually will bring more

Another discussion question was about students on probation and their ability to go abroad. There might be lack of consistency in our policies. The committee agreed to add this as a seventh charge for the year:

Charge # 7. Examine study abroad application documentation for clarity regarding application rules for students placed on probation.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50

Respectfully submitted by Pepa Lago