

Minutes – IEC - October 6, 2014

Members Attending: Gareth Barkin, Lisa Ferrari, Kena Fox-Dobbs, Diane Kelley, Pepa Lago Grana, John Lear, Donn Marshall, Eric Orlin, Roy Robinson, Dan Sherman, Peter Wimberger

Other Attendees: Allyson Lindsey, Quincy Livingston, Stephanie Noss, Grace Witherell

Meeting began with approval of the minutes from the September 22, 2014 meeting.

Gareth Barkin made an announcement about an upcoming LIASE dinner event (10/24) which will include presentations by students from the Indonesia course last spring.

Barkin asked for discussion about formation of subcommittees to address potential new Senate charges, and existing unfinished/standing charges from the last academic year.

The first agenda item was Roy Robinson's draft application form for faculty-led study abroad experiences. A subcommittee could potentially revise the form and bring it back to the IEC for approval. John Lear asked if this subcommittee should also look at any proposed programs in the queue. It was suggested that same subcommittee could also address the process for allocation of new \$50,000 study abroad funds.

Barkin asked for clarification from Robinson about these new faculty-led study abroad funds. The fund is up to \$50,000 from existing study abroad budget (whatever not used to support students), but it is not a guaranteed budget line item. Currently there is no process for requesting this funding, and Robinson would like an advisory committee to help with this. Issues include timing of distribution, amounts, fairness of allocation, etc. A newly named "Faculty led abroad program" subcommittee could address both the application form, and make recommendations about process for distribution of funds. Faculty volunteers for this subcommittee included Robinson, Lear, Peter Wimberger, and Eric Orlin.

Barkin reported that the Faculty Senate charges (for IEC) still had not been assigned, but will happen before the next IEC meeting. These charges will determine additional subcommittees.

Charges from the last academic year that were not completed (or are standing charges):

- 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. Barkin and Robinson emphasized the importance of collecting these types of data, but Stephanie Noss reminded us that implementing new surveys can be expensive.
- Continue to work with faculty to encourage the integration of study abroad experiences into on-campus classes and research symposia, and work with the Student Life

Committee and the Dean of Students to encourage integration of study abroad experiences into co-curricular activities. Robinson suggested that we come up with a plan to have a few identified programs or departments that have formalized advising or curricular guidelines for specific study abroad programs. This could be one way to make progress on this “standing” charge. The idea would be to ask an initial sub-set of departments what study abroad programs work best with their curriculum, and to identify programs they would like featured (for their majors).

- Study and report on the feasibility and desirability of increasing the number of direct study abroad exchange programs. Robinson explained that these programs cost less, and can open opportunities for exchange (bring students to UPS). Robinson thought that while it was not hard to show feasibility and desirability, we needed departments to take ownership of specific programs, or even set up contacts. Robinson suggested that one use of \$50,000 fund would be for faculty site visits and program reviews, to help establish relationships.

- We did not discuss the last charge – “Examine study abroad application documentation for clarity regarding application rules for students placed on probation.”

The final agenda item was discussion about the review of Elise Richman’s new Spring 2015 Rome program information document. Robinson said he would have cost estimates within the week. The IEC does not have a process yet to review or approve faculty-led programs, so decisions regarding this course are left to the Curriculum Committee and the Office of International Programs.

Meeting adjourned at 2:52pm.

Submitted,  
Kena Fox-Dobbs