

## International Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, 12/8/14

Attending: Gareth Barkin (chair), Diane Kelley, Pepa Lago, John Lear, Lisa Ferrari, Kena Fox-Dobbs, Donn Marshall, Allyson Lindsley (guest), Stephanie Noss (guest), Eric Orlin, Elizabeth Orr (guest) Jenny Rickard (guest), Roy Robinson, Grace Witherell.

Minutes were approved from the 11/24/14 meeting.

We continued discussion of Senate Charge #4--“Investigate and recommend ways to significantly increase the enrollment of international students on campus”—with the participation of Elizabeth Orr, Assistant Director of Admission, and Jenny Rickard, Vice-President of Admission.

Barkin explained the IEC’s interest in encouraging greater enrollment of international students, currently below 1% and well below that of many of our peers. Jenny Rickard began by noting Puget Sound’s recent transformation into a national liberal arts school, one that meant we have focused nationally, while many of our current peers have many more years recruiting international student. PS is just beginning to dedicate staff and resources to international recruitment. A further challenge is helping international students meet their full need, in the absence of federal aid. Efforts in the last two years to build PS name recognition and recruit international students include developing relations with the United World College system, particular the one based in New Mexico. Many peers have a relation with the UWC that requires a commitment to meet full need for accepted students, with supplemental aid from the Davis Foundation. PS is not there yet. In addition, in the last two years the PS admission office has made 5 trips to Asia and will take one in May to Latin America.

In discussion Rickard clarified that many international students at peer institutions are shorter term and not degree seeking, and that the ideal international student brings her own financial means rather than competing for the current resources. Even so, there has been some talk of offering a merit scholarship for foreign students that could attract attention and applicants.

Orr explained the desire to recruit students of a high caliber, reflected in the requirement of a higher TOEFL level than many of our peers, and the need to fully integrate them into the PS experience. She noted our lack of an ESL program to bring students up to the level they need. She explained her participation in travel groups of peer liberal arts colleges who have traveled to a variety of cities and venues in Asia where they meet students and counselors from likely sender high schools. These are efforts that will slowly build recognition and applicants.

General discussion followed along the following lines:

Neither the Office of Admission or International Programs systematically recruits students for shorter periods of a semester or year. Roy mentioned that beyond formal

PS exchanges like Passau, there are some programs with opportunities to attract such students, but they usually require a significant commitment of resources, such as offering housing.

There may be several opportunities for recruitment related to the Pac Rim program.

A challenge recruiting some of the many Asian students at Annie Wright and many in Asia is that student sights are often on acceptance to the Ivy League.

There was some discussion of what faculty might do to encourage applications from abroad, including meeting with students and high school counselors when they are in their countries of expertise, or facilitating possible visits by PS admissions staff to appropriate high schools they are aware of. Someone suggested using portions of faculty funds for study abroad to develop such contacts.

Rickard and Orr noted current efforts on behalf of foreign-born undocumented students, particularly through initiatives in Tacoma public schools. Lindsley noted we currently have many third culture kids, who usually are documented US citizens.

Before adjourning this last meeting of the semester at 2:50, all thanked our guests from the Admission office and gave a round of applause to Barkin for his role as chair this past semester.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lear