

International Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Jan 28 2015

Attending: Alva Butcher (chair), Diane Kelley, Pepa Lago, John Lear, Lisa Ferrari, Allyson Lindsley (guest), Eric Orlin, Roy Robinson, Peter Wimberger, Dan Sherman.

Meeting called to order at 11:01 a.m.

Minutes of 12/8/15 approved.

Announcements: It was noted that Quincy Livingston would not be able to continue as a committee member because of a class conflict. Butcher said that she will check with the ASUPS President about a replacement.

Robinson noted that the application deadline was two days away and that committee members should encourage students to apply, as there was still room in the budget for more students.

The committee then engaged in a conversation about whether we could encourage first-year students to apply. Lago noted that the Jan 30 deadline makes it difficult for first year students who might want to study abroad in their sophomore spring, a full year away. Robinson noted that on occasion we also have students who want to study abroad in the fall of sophomore year, especially on programs only offered in the fall; we currently have one such student applying, though one who took a gap year and so is slightly older and more mature than the typical first-year student. Ferrari pointed out that our challenge is that we only have a single semester as a track record of behavior on which to draw. Kelley clarified that this committee's role is to focus on a student's academic performance, and less on behavior. Butcher concluded the conversation by noting that we will have to handle these on a case by case basis.

The committee then turned to a review of our charges from the Senate and an assessment of where we were with each charge and how we might proceed with each, including the possibility of forming subcommittees to address them.

Charge 1: With respect to the issue of sexual violence

Two aspects of this charge were discussed: The first was how we review protocols of providers, especially the smaller providers who have not responded to requests to provide information about their protocols. While we can do this when we renew or add programs, Kelley suggested that we need to push the smaller providers harder, as many parents might not be comfortable without knowing this information. Robinson will provide a spreadsheet of what providers have policies and what needs to be done at a future meeting. The second issue was to consider the sexual assault information that our campus provides to students studying abroad. This information has been prepared, and we are currently waiting to hear back from Marta Palmquist-Cady on whether our document is sufficient.

Charge 2. Continue to review the current list of study abroad programs and eliminate expensive programs that do not provide something distinctive (e.g., language, discipline, or geography.)

Robinson provided a list of UK programs and recent enrollments, with an eye towards possibly paring down the list this spring. His office proposed reducing the list to four programs: IES London (Queen Mary), IES London (Theater Studies), AHA – London: Humanities, AHA – London: Humanities with internship. Kelley asked about the Study London program, which was the most popular in recent years. Robinson replied that the program is mostly populated with other Americans, and that the offerings are

mostly replicated in other programs. Butcher asked if could see what courses students take, and Robinson replied that Kathleen Sullivan has responded that it is difficult to know in general, because so much depends on a student's major. We decided to table this discussion until we could get more information from Kathleen.

Charge 3. With respect to short-term study abroad programs

This subcommittee has been working in these documents and will report at the next meeting.

Charge 4. Investigate and recommend ways to significantly increase the enrollment of international students on campus

Our visit from Jenny Rickard suggests that Admissions is aware of the issue and is working on it according to their own processes and priorities. Thus the best way for IEC to contribute on this issue ourselves is to continue to develop exchanges. Robinson indicated they are waiting on approval from Kathleen for Sehir U. in Turkey, and we already have a program in the works with Nebrija.

Charge 5. Investigate reasons for the recent, dramatic decline in the number of Puget Sound students electing to study abroad, and how it might be abated

Lear suggested that the working hypothesis about loss of merit aid means that we might try to analyze those numbers without running a survey Ferrari noted that FERPA concerns may mean we can't get individual data, but Financial Services should be able to aggregate it. Butcher will contact Maggie Mittuch.

Lear asked if there were broader trends that might help explain the drop in numbers, but Robinson noted that numbers at other institutions are relatively stable. Robinson suggested that one possible step might be to survey students who decided not to study abroad, and distributed a possible example. Wimberger noted that a survey won't capture those who don't even set foot in SA office. Ferrari and Wimberger then offered some suggestions for improving the survey design.

With time running short, Butcher suggested we develop some subcommittees for these tasks.

Charge 1: No committee yet, until Butcher contacts Marta and our Senate liaison for clarification

Charge 2: Butcher and Lago will work with Robinson on the UK programs; Robinson noted we could use a wider subcommittee for a broader review of programs

Charge 3: Committee exists (Orlin, Lear, Wimberger)

Charge 4: Kelley and Lago offered to help generate ideas as to where exchange programs might be helpful, since the whole committee would need to review these programs

Charge 5: Ferrari and Sherman will help with the questionnaires

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Orlin