

IEC Meeting minutes

March 25, 2015

Attending: Mike Burley (student), Alva Butcher (chair), Sarah Comstock, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, Pepa Lago, Allyson Lindsley (guest), Eric Orlin, Dan Sherman, Peter Wimberger.

1. Approval of minutes for Feb 25th and March 11, 2015
 - a. Approved with minor changes
2. There were no announcements
3. The committee discussed a petition for study abroad in London submitted by Reid Hartman- a late application, also his gpa is a bit under the 2.5 minimum required. The petition was approved, with a recommendation to the athletic staff to be more forthcoming and encouraging to athletes regarding study abroad information.
4. Report of subcommittee on the Study Abroad Decision Survey. Ferrari met with Robinson to discuss the Returning Student Questionnaire. Sherman and Ferrari drafted a Study Abroad Decision Survey and presented it to the committee for comments. The committee took those comments and will submit an updated draft before next meeting. Orlin asked about the timetable for putting survey out. Since changes are not significant, it will be ready for release right away.
5. Report of subcommittee on UK Study Abroad Programs. The subcommittee found the 18 programs in and around London to be an excessive number with several overlaps. After careful examination the subcommittee recommends the following institutions for Study Abroad in the UK
 - AHA International London – Humanities Program (it offers more of a liberal arts experience and gpa is not as onerous as the other options)
 - Queen Mary. It offers the possibility for direct enrollment, also possible exchange. Robinson is looking into those options. A representative was on campus recently and Robinson was impressed with housing options. For Biology students, Wimberger was curious regarding quality of courses and ability to get the courses students wanted. It was the consensus that none of those were concerns.
 - IES London Theater Studies Program (kept because of the expressed interest by the Theater Arts department)
 - Arcadia University - London Internship Program (the more rigorous of the two existing ones)

The committee wants to make sure students have a broad spectrum of courses they can pick from, regardless of what programs they major in. Orlin wondered if the Oxford program should be kept on the list if it offers something different from the London programs. Lago argued that the demand is extremely low and there is no reason to keep it. A motion was made to remove 13 other programs off the list. The motion was approved by

the committee. More information on the Oxford program will be brought back to committee to consider whether or not to keep that program.

6. Other business included discussion of merit aid vs need-based aid that can be taken abroad. Students can't take "pure merit" but they can allocate a portion of their merit aid to meet their need. Ferrari suggested that one explanation for the changes in numbers might be because of the way in which aid is allocated and packaged. Butcher provided statistics from Maggie Mittuch on the percentage of students studying abroad with zero need-based aid. (25% in 2009-10, 44% in 2010-11, 32% in 2011-12, and 33% in 2012-13). Broader questions discussed were the value put on studying abroad by the university as per the university mission.

The committee discussed the possibility of inviting Dean Bartanen to speak to the committee about this issue. If so, we need to consider what questions are appropriate for the Dean and how to frame the discussion. We need to understand what are the priorities of the institution and what goals are reasonable. Information must be gathered on the target for study abroad numbers, and what other directions are fruitful for us to discuss other than financial aid. Study abroad is not on the academic priorities document currently under discussion, but could play into experiential component that is addressed at length there.

7. Wimberger would like to make the faculty aware of some of the financial aid options for students and proposed a recommendation that students going to specific UPS programs like Pac Rim be able to take more merit (they can on SouthWest semester –since courses are taught by our faculty- but not Pac Rim). Wimberger will create a document addressed to the faculty and will circulate it at the next meeting of the IEC. Dijon and Oaxaca were mentioned as other programs to consider in this group. Wimberger moved that IEC support a recommendation to the faculty that students can take all aid on UPS programs. The motion was approved. The final wording of the recommendation will be subject to IEC approval.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50

Submitted by Pepa Lago