

International Education Committee Meeting Minutes, October 12, 2015

Committee Members Present: Gareth Barkin, Alva Butcher (chair), Sarah Comstock, Ian Craighead (student representative), Lea Fortman, John Lear, Roy Robinson, Mike Spivey.

Guests: Carmen Eyssautier

The meeting was convened at 10am by Chair Butcher. Last meeting's minutes were approved

Announcements: Barkin discussed the second annual Southeast Asia Symposium that will take place 10/23-24, 2015.

Robinson brought up finalizing that exchange program with Nebrja, in Madrid, Spain, which was pending some concerns about housing. There were no objections.

Butcher brought up the Russia program student petition approval process. The group discussed whether the applying student could still graduate on time after spending a year in that program, given the courses available there and the transfer credit he could bring in. It was clear the applicant would have difficulty completing his major given the program's constraints. Concerns included whether the student realized that he would likely need a full additional semester at Puget Sound to graduate on time, and that he apparently had not done the work to determine the transfer credit he'd receive.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the program on a tentative basis.

Robinson brought up the CIEE Amman program, which would be the only abroad program the University has focused on the study of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. Robinson noted that this was a petition from his office designed to meet a missing area of interest on campus, not a student position. It was noted that they have good reporting on sexual violence concerns. The committee voted unanimously to approve the petition.

Butcher moved on to the Round River Conservation Patagonia program. Feedback from Assoc. Dean Ferrari was read about this program, and also a separate SIT Climate Change program petition, about which she expressed concerns. Little qualitative information was known about the Round River program's quality and rigor. Lear brought up an expansion of the Oaxaca program that would include an environmental component. Robinson brought up the lack of support for the SIT climate change program among the faculty.

The committee unanimously voted not to approve the SIT Climate Change program.

The committee chose to defer a vote on the Patagonia program until a faculty support letter came in from Peter Wimberger, which was reportedly on the way.

Robinson went on to discuss direct enrollment program options in Africa, noting there are few options for students. His office wanted to offer such an option, and recommended a CIEE program in Botswana, where they had identified a safe and locally integrated, diverse program.

The committee voted unanimously to approve CIEE Botswana.

The charge to cut down on the total number of available programs offered by the University was brought up in light of these additions. Barkin brought up the issue of developing partnerships and in-

house semester-long programs, noting that greater enrollments in in-house programs might draw students toward fewer programs naturally.

Butcher resolved to focus the next meeting on the Senate charges.

Butcher adjourned the meeting at 10:48am.

Respectfully submitted by Gareth Barkin.