

December 7, 2015

## International Education Committee Minutes

Present: Kriszta Kotsis, Lisa Ferrari, Mike Spivey, Ian Craighead, Sarah Comstock, Lea Fortmann, , Eric Orlin, Roy Robinson, Carmen Eyssautier (Guests), Alva Butcher  
The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

The minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting were approved, with minor corrections.

The committee discussed a student petition to add a Rainforest Studies Summer Program in New Zealand and Australia. Robinson noted that the expense of the program might limit the number of students who might take advantage of this program, but also that there was a desire to increase the number of summer offerings, especially as these did not place the same kinds of financial demands upon the University. The committee was generally in favor of this program. It was noted that the program had not been reviewed yet by Lindsay Secrist in the Registrar's office, a step that is normally taken before the IEC approves new programs. In order to save time, it was suggested that the committee could approve the program, conditional on review by the Registrar's office; if Secrist identified any issues, the proposal would come back to the IEC for further review and discussion.

**M/S/P: To provisionally approve the Rainforest Studies Summer Program, conditional upon a clean review by the Registrar's office.**

The committee then turned to the report from the sub-committee on Charge 4 from the Senate: "*Make recommendations (to the Senate?) for improving the rate of participation in study abroad based on survey data collected in 2014-2015.*" Orlin and Spivey met with Peter Wimberger (who had worked on this issue extensively during his service on the IEC) and developed a plan for a presentation at a faculty meeting early in 2016 focused on educating the faculty about the current status of study abroad programs at the University. The first part of the report would present data about the current declining rate of participation in study abroad and research about the importance of study abroad to a liberal arts education in order to show why this decline should be a concern to faculty across campus. The second part would discuss initiatives and opportunities currently in place to increase participation, such as the fund to help faculty develop faculty-led study abroad programs and the desire to increase exchange programs with foreign universities. The third part would both explain and discuss the change to the Financial Aid policy in 2007 as a possible explanation for the decline, since it correlates to the decline, and propose the following resolution to the full faculty as part of an effort to address that circumstance:

*The Faculty recommend to the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees that Puget Sound students participating in the Pacific Rim program be allowed to take their full financial aid package with them during their year studying in Asia.*

The rationale of the subcommittee for proposing this modification to the Financial Aid policy is that Pac Rim is fully integrated within Puget Sound's curriculum: the program is directed by Puget Sound faculty, taught by Puget Sound faculty, the courses are listed in the

Puget Sound catalog, and course credit is given directly by Puget Sound. And of course it is one of our signature programs, which argues against treating it in the same way as programs offered by third-party providers. The Subcommittee plans to discuss this proposal with the Asian Studies program in an effort to gain their support before proceeding to present it to the full faculty.

The committee engaged in a discussion of the subcommittee's proposal, focused largely around the proposal to be made to the faculty. Some history of the IEC's origins and the history of the Financial Aid policy was offered. Prior to the reorganization of the Study Abroad offerings in the early 2000's by the Task Force that later developed into the IEC, there had been no clear budget for Study Abroad, which meant that excess funds expended on these programs had to be taken from other budgets around campus. As part of that reorganization, a budget line was developed and the IEC had begun discussions about how to prioritize student applications for studying abroad in the event that those funds were insufficient to cover all students who wanted to go abroad. Just prior to the implementation of that policy, the Cabinet passed the change to the study abroad policy, limiting the amount of merit aid that a student could use to study abroad to the amount of need as determined by the FAFSA form. Since that time, the money expended on study abroad has been under the limit of the amount available in the Study Abroad budget.

Further discussion ensued on how to make the presentation to the faculty as compelling as possible. One suggestion was to include research on short-term faculty led programs (such as John Lear's Cuba program or Nick Kontogeorgopoulos' Thailand trip), as these might also be considered as study-abroad experiences. Robinson indicated that the first results from the Study Abroad Decision Survey that the IEC developed in 2014-15 were available; the response rate was approximately 35% of students who had made contact with International Programs but did not study abroad. The results suggested two main reasons why students did not attend: 1) they could not fit the program into their major or 2) they did not have enough aid to be able to afford it (see attachment for the full results). A further point was noted that in light of the recent student protests about groups that are excluded in certain ways from a full Puget Sound experience, the subcommittee might consider how the current study abroad policies function as part of that exclusion.

**M/S/P (with one abstention): To support the presentation including the proposal for a modification of the Financial Aid policy at a faculty meeting early in 2016.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

After the meeting a few individuals held a brief discussion about summer programs. Following an email to the members of the committee, a majority of the committee voted by email to allow students to apply for the Temple Rome and Budapest summer programs with the caveat that they are likely to be approved when the committee reconvenes in the spring, but that students should have an alternative plan in case they are not approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Orlin