

IEC Minutes for December 8, 2016
Misner Room, Collins Library

Present: Gareth Barkin, Alva Butcher, Debbie Chee, Carmen Eyssautier, Lea Fortmann (presiding officer), Eowyn Greeno, Diane Kelley, Kriszta Kotsis, John Lear, Roy Robinson, Zoe Scott, Mike Spivey

The meeting began at noon with approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. We briefly discussed when to meet next semester but decided to wait for more information from the deans' office.

We then turned to reports from subcommittees handling the IEC's charges for the year. With respect to Charge 4, Fortmann stated that Institutional Research is still compiling its report on study abroad participation by students of color and first-generation students. The Greeno/Kelley subcommittee handling Charge 3 has a meeting on Monday.

Robinson presented an update on SAWG (Study Abroad Working Group). He mentioned a possible upcoming proposal from SAWG: Reduce the amount of money in the study abroad instructional budget and shift it to (1) more financial aid so all of a student's institutional financial aid can apply to study abroad, and (2) more support for faculty-led programs. He mentioned there might also be a surcharge on especially expensive programs.

Butcher asked whether this would increase the number of students participating in study abroad and thus affect the financial stability of the redistribution of money. Lear suggested that if study abroad enrollment does increase then we might have to make decisions about who gets to go on study abroad, and we might have to re-examine our current support for study abroad during the summer. We then had a general discussion about other possible financial or enrollment implications of the SAWG proposal.

Kotsis reported for the subcommittee handling Charge 1. She presented the most recent draft of the sexual assault report card for study abroad. (A previous version of this card was in the IEC final report last year.) This card is for immediate help in the direct aftermath of a sexual assault, and the card will be incorporated in a training session for students going on study abroad. Chee said she thinks we are close to a final version of the card.

Barkin suggested that the card include email addresses. Others suggested finding out whether campus security can be called collect or texted, and if so, whether that information could be placed on the card. Chee mentioned a new mobile phone application that may be helpful, too.

Barkin reported for the subcommittee tasked with Charge 2. He presented a draft of a rubric for evaluating current and future IEC programs. This rubric is attached.

Fortmann expressed concern about overlap in some categories on the rubric. Barkin agreed there is some overlap but mentioned that one distinction is between structure and practice. He also said that "high-impact experience" and "practices that increase intercultural competence" are probably too important to combine into one category.

Kotsis suggested a broader term than “fieldwork” in the last option in Category three. After some discussion, we decided to add “experiential engagement.” The attached document includes the updated language.

Finally, we turned to a discussion of some specific summer programs. We decided to approve the summer versions of the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics and AIT Budapest programs. Spivey said the Mathematics and Computer Science Department thinks very highly of these programs and encourages many of their best students to attend them.

Lear then echoed his earlier concerns about potential changes to the study abroad budget causing summer programs to take up more of the overall study abroad budget. Given this, there was general agreement that we should not approve any more summer programs at this point. We decided to table further discussion of the DIS Copenhagen and Temple Rome programs until we learn what the final upcoming changes to the study abroad budget will be.

We adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Spivey