

International Education Committee
Minutes of the October 5, 2018 Meeting

Present: Gareth Barkin, Debbie Chee, Eowyn Greeno, Carmen Eyssautier, Diane Kelley, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Sunil Kukreja, Roy Robinson, Rokiatou Soumaré, Matt Warning, Anna Wittstruck

Chair Diane Kelley convened the meeting at 11:05 AM.

Agenda Item 1. Discussion of minutes from September 21 meeting.

Some debate on what was agreed upon regarding feedback given to Denise Glover. One committee member recommended that we clarify what kind of information we expect CHWS representatives to be able to give faculty as part of guidance procedures for faculty-led, short-term study abroad program proposals. One committee member suggested that it might be good to have list of items as suggestions to give CHWS to go over with faculty members. Agreement made that Eowyn Greeno and Carmen Eyssautier would speak with Tiffany and Libby from CHWS.

Motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 2. Announcements

Southeast Asia Symposium, October 19-20, 2018. Committee encouraged to invite students, colleagues, etc. Highlights: keynote speaker, poster presentations by Pacific Rim students, fair, and banquet. The chair asked if there were any other announcements.

Agenda Item 3. Student Petition for Study Abroad in Copenhagen

The chair read a letter from a student petitioning to study abroad in Copenhagen in Spring 2019 despite being on leave and off campus for Fall 2018. A committee member explained that the official policy (and reason for the petition is that a student must be on campus the semester prior to his/her study abroad. A committee member explained that the reason for this policy is that, because student leaves are often medical leaves of absence, UPS needs to verify in advance that the student is mentally and physically ready to go abroad.

A committee member noted that there are no known mental or physical issues related to this particular student. As indicated in the student's letter, the leave was due to financial circumstances.

Move to approve the student's petition. Second. The student's petition was approved.

Agenda Item 4. Denise Glover's proposal for a field study component to SOAN 225

We agreed that Denise Glover's proposal is no longer time sensitive because she did not receive funding and therefore her field study would not be happening in Spring 2019. We agreed to move the agenda item to the end of the meeting, time permitting. [Note: at end of meeting, we agreed to review the proposal at another meeting].

Agenda Item 5. Familiarizing Committee Members with Study Abroad Policies

The following areas of study abroad policy were highlighted:

1. The deadline to apply for study abroad is Jan 25.
2. We use a management system called Horizons. All UPS students may view programs; only students who register with Horizons can apply to programs.
3. The advising process includes group sessions on finance, credits, and then individual meetings. These meetings are not a requirement.
4. Study abroad is a 2-step application. On Jan 25, students apply to be approved by UPS to go abroad. If they are approved, they then have to apply directly to the program selected. For programs that are extra competitive or have early deadlines, we tell them to go ahead and apply, contingent on then also being approved by UPS.
5. All students are billed UPS tuition, UPS double-room accommodations (except in Budapest), and UPS meal plan (or percentage) per semester. They are also billed the ASUPS semester fee (charter is that every enrolled student pays this fee) and a program fee of \$300, \$1,200 or \$2,400. The \$300 program fee can be included in the cost of attendance student financial services uses to award financial aid.
6. For summer study abroad, students just pay the cost of program and an administrative fee of \$500.

Questions that arose from the committee:

1. What percentages of the programs have a \$300 program fee (as opposed to higher fee).
Answer: a majority (slightly more than 50%).
2. Is study abroad costing UPS or is it revenue source?
Answer: depends on financial aid and what that student is receiving. The sense is that some income is flowing to UPS. One committee member noted that one problem with the current system is that the Office of Finance accounts for study abroad as a line item (budgeting a certain amount), i.e. as accounts payable, and not as pass through or revenue.

Additional areas were then highlighted:

1. The first time freshmen can go abroad is the summer after freshman year, or on a faculty-led trip. Sophomores may go abroad for a full semester beginning in Spring of their sophomore year (with less priority). Most students go on study abroad in as juniors (90%). Students can go on

study abroad as seniors, and this is compatible with the requirement that they be in residence for the last 8 units of their study at UPS. A committee member noted that this allowance for seniors is not well understood on campus.

2. Financial aid transfers to study abroad with the exception of work study.

Additional questions from the committee:

1. Anticipating that a student may not get into their first program, can they apply simultaneously for a second one?

Answer: They can only apply to one program at a time. If they don't get into the first program, there is help to get them into another program. In the case of programs being competitive and with late notification, an exception is made to let them apply to multiple programs.

2. When students log into Horizons, do they see anything about how these programs would count towards their degree advancement in terms of credit?

Answer: No. A committee member suggested this may be a good project for the future. Another committee member noted that a meeting to this effect has already been set up with the Registrar's Office.

The committee also noted that there is no current budget worksheet for students to be able to see what they would be charged for (regarding study abroad) vs. their financial aid. It is recommended that students meet with Eowyn Greeno and Carmen Eyssautier for advising and Student Financial Services for financial aid questions.

Committee members also emphasized that there is NO guarantee that students who apply to study abroad will be accepted to the program. It is important that we communicate this message to the students. To that end, a committee member suggested that perhaps we can do more on the front end of messaging to students, even prospective students in admissions, to make it clear that studying abroad is selective. Other committee members noted that this message is already conveyed through pre-advising. Suggestion that it might be integrated as a talking point for tour guides about study abroad. For reference, a committee member noted that last year we denied 12 students who applied to study abroad, as opposed to the average 3-4/per year prior.

Agenda Item 6. Round River Patagonia Program.

A committee member explained that this is a program that was approved provisionally so that we could review it later on. A student contacted us about doing this program, which brings it to discussion today.

We noted the students who have done the program previously and that there is precedent.

The Chair read a statement by Peter Wimberger about the value of the program.

A committee member noted that the School for Field Studies has a similar program in Chile with a faculty member that is less focused on backpacking and more centered around a single organization. The committee member noted that there have been past administrative difficulties with Round River regarding billing and communication. The committee member felt it was important for us to know those challenges.

A committee member also noted the difference in cost between the SFS Chile program (\$18,675) and the Round River program (~\$12,000).

A committee member suggested that the committee go over the criteria as we think about approving new programs, suggesting we then look at the Round River program and the SFS Chile program side by side for comparison with the criteria clearly in mind. Noted that while the Patagonia program may be cheaper and appealing, it may not satisfy the academic criteria of study abroad programs. Academic quality is important, and we have an obligation to preserve the integrity of what it means to get academic credit.

The committee member also stressed the interest of trimming back and not expanding the number of approved programs. The committee member recommended the following happen:

1. We should look at the criteria.
2. We should consider if there's another program (such as the SFS Chile program) that would be considered a better fit for the criteria.
3. We should put off this decision until then and in the meantime ask Peter Wimberger to look at Round River and the SFS Chile program side by side.

Another committee member noted that this case is unique because we have allowed students to do it in the past, and because we don't have many field study program (this last point was debated). The committee's consensus was that the program is not unique.

The committee agreed (not by vote but by general nodding and discussion) that we need to formally review the criteria for this kind of proposal before approving or rejecting it.

A question arose whether we are considering this case as a student petition, in light of confusion over the program's status. Debate continued on whether we indeed provisionally approved this program. The general sense was that we had, but with dissent. A committee member noted that the criteria previously mentioned were not set when the program was provisionally approved.

A committee member asked if someone could send out the criteria.

The committee agreed that, instead of having the student apply for exception, we would review the program and make a decision.

Agenda Item 6: Subcommittee for Charge Ib.

The committee discussed whether to appoint someone to be a faculty liaison with admissions to seek data on international student recruitment.

The chair suggested we create a subcommittee for Charge Ib.

The committee decided that the subcommittee for Charge Ib would be:

Gareth Barkin
Eowyn Greeno
Diane Kelley,
Anna Wittstruck
(with Debbie Chee participating when available)

The committee raised a final question about Running Start as a committee charge. A committee member suggested we may need to revisit the topic next year. The committee member explained that currently the challenge that needs to be resolved is the following:

Our criteria for study abroad are based on the traditional alignment of credits/year (i.e. cohort). As we accept students to UPS who come in with more existing credits, how does that work with study abroad? One committee member felt that study abroad qualification status should be based on “social” cohort, not academic units, but another member pointed out that study abroad is tethered to the academic curriculum and degree advancement, and thus to credits.

We agreed to review Denise Glover’s proposal next time.

The committee adjourned at 11:51 AM.

Minutes submitted by Anna Wittstruck.