

International Education Committee

28 January 2020

Attending: Gareth Barkin, Mariana Sanchez Castillo, Carmen Eyssautier, Karl Fields, Eowyn Greeno, Sunil Kukreja, Sara Protasi, Hilary Robbeloth, Roy Robinson, Brett M Rogers, Rokiatou Soumare, Matt Warning, Sheryl L Zylstra

The Committee Co-chairs convened the meeting at 1pm:

1) Announcements

a) The Office of International Programs (OIP) provided an update on coronavirus as it applies to Puget Sound

i) No students currently studying abroad in China

ii) The State Department yesterday shifted the Travel Advisory from level 2 to a level 3; Hunan is a level 4

iii) The sole Puget Sound student planning to study abroad in China (Harbin) this semester will not be going and has re-enrolled at Puget Sound this semester

iv) A committee member commended OIP for being on top of the situation with both the provider and family concerned.

b) A committee member announced the current Anthropology tenure-line faculty position search and the lecture being provided by the next candidate who currently works as a study abroad faculty member for SIT: French African scholar of Madagascar, Monday, February 3rd, 4pm in Wyatt 204

c) A committee member announced a lecture sponsored by the local branch of the Archaeological Institute of America on excavations in eastern Crete this Saturday, February 1st, 2pm in the Tahoma Room

d) A committee member noted that Professor LaToya Brackett led a successful short-term study abroad program to Ghana, in spite of several illnesses during the trip. In fact, a number of students have since expressed interest in a semester-long program in Ghana

e) A committee member noted that Professor Alice Lai of Hwa Nan College and Fujian Normal University is here on campus as a visiting scholar as part of the FNU-UPS faculty exchange program. She is visiting classes and conducting research.

2) Approval of the 20 November 2019 Minutes

a) It was suggested that Sheryl move her name to the bottom of the minutes with an appropriate adverbial sign-off

b) A committee member noted that the issue of Running Start credit is more generally an issue of transfer credit

c) It was proposed to delay approval of the minutes to allow members to review and make suggestions

3) Office of International Program's report on study abroad applications

a) Data for past two years:

- i) Fall 2019 66 applications
- ii) Spring 2020 101 applications
- iii) Fall 2020 57 applications
- iv) Spring 2021 112 applications
- v) Fall 2020 numbers include 15 full-year applications

b) OIP noted a growing imbalance between the total number of fall and spring applications, which led to a discussion:

- i) Why the imbalance? It was explained that availability of classes and lead time to make decisions are both factors.
- ii) Is the imbalance a problem? OIP noted that there have not been complaints yet, in large part because the melt means that a significantly smaller number than those who apply actually study abroad.
- iii) Here are the 4-year average data on melt:
 - (1) Fall: 17 percent
 - (2) Spring: 31 percent
- iv) Why the melt? OIP noted that some accepted students learn that they are unable to obtain the necessary credits, so they choose not to go. He noted that very few students are denied.
 - (1) It was suggested that it might be useful to have major-by-major credit availability from various programs available for potential applicants at the time of application
 - (2) It was also suggested that letting students know of core-eligible courses and programs would be helpful.
 - (3) In short, as long as the finances hold, anything we can do to reduce the melt will be valuable.

c) Key takeaways from applications thus far:

- i) Finances

(1) OIP explained that the Office collects all applications, enters them into a spreadsheet, and then uses this year's figures (tuition and program costs) to calculate a tentative budget

(2) Based on current applications, if all were to attend, the program would be \$300,000 over budget

(3) But if a similar melt to last year is assumed, the program will be \$299,000 in the black

(4) Using a reasonably conservative estimate of 8 percent melt in the fall and 20 percent melt in the spring, (and average program cost of \$16,000), then the program should remain well within budget.

ii) A committee member noted that it would be useful to learn what leads to the melt in order to gather more definitive information to improve budget projections.

iii) OIP has reviewed the applications for highly competitive programs and brought them here for early approval

(1) OIP identified 19 students with interest in programs with early deadlines and/or are highly competitive

(2) OIP saw no red flags with any of them and came seeking early approval so these students can pursue early application

(3) It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to authorize OIP to approve these applications

d) Two application petitions were discussed

i) A faculty member presented a letter in support of a student petitioning for approval for two separate programs in one academic year

(1) OIP noted that these requests are a potential area for limiting applications in the event of the need to limit total study abroad students. He also noted that on occasion it can be difficult for a student to acclimate to two different settings in a single year.

(2) The budget projection this year does not warrant such a restriction and it was determined that the committee college is willing to entertain these requests need not take any action

ii) A student petitioned to have a late application accepted.

(1) A committee member (as academic advisor) noted that the deadline was missed because of confusion about the OIP website timeline

(2) OIP noted that, historically, late applications have occasionally not proven to work out well, but that budget projections again do not warrant culling this application.

(3) It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the application

e) OIP gave notice that the committee should be prepared in our next meeting to consider applications that may have possible concerns.

f) The committee co-chairs noted that the Faculty Senate has set the IEC's reporting date at April 20th. They asked that subcommittees meet soon to determine when subcommittee reports will be completed and bring these dates to the next meeting. They suggested that an appropriate time frame for completion would be Spring Break.

4) It was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted dutifully by Karl Fields