

International Education Committee

25 February, 2020

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

Committee Co-chairs Barkin and Warning convened the meeting at 1pm.

1. Announcements

A committee member advertised the upcoming event by AFAM Studies Wednesday, February 26th. The African American Studies Ghana course will reflect on its experience in Ghana this past winter break.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the 11 February 2020 were approved.

3. Discussion on student petitions to study abroad

The committee discussed the case of two students who wish to study abroad. The committee decided to ask students more details about their rationales before making a decision.

4. Discussion about study abroad, Faculty led program abroad and the impact of Coronavirus

The committee also discussed the impact of coronavirus on UPS faculty and students currently abroad. It was noted that UPS is monitoring the situation, and will follow the warnings and recommendation of the States department. The university currently has Faculty and/or students in China, Italy, Dijon, Taiwan, Seoul. One committee member pointed out that several programs such as CET and CIEE China as well CIE Seoul have been cancelled. Italy is a concern too. A committee member asked about the level of threat, another member responded that levels differ depending on the areas. Taiwan for instance is on level 2. The committee also noted that the classification of the States Department and the CDC do not always align. If the CDC puts a country on level 3, programs will automatically be cancelled. The committee then debated the difficulty early summer programs might face, in particular PacRim. The situation is complicated and volatile, but UPS is trying to be as much proactive as possible, including considering purchasing insurance, relocating to other locations etc... Bottom line is UPS and OIP are clear with students, the latter sign a pre-agreement and register with the States Department when they travel.

5. Adding the CIEE Ghana semester program to our approved programs list

The committee approved the Ghana program. We have so few students going to Africa and Ghana has generated some interests on campus.

Submitted by Rokiatou Soumaré