

Minutes of the International Education Committee

April 12, 2013

Members present: Lisa Ferrari, Matthew Ingalls, Diane Kelley, Allyson Lindsley, Donn Marshall, Stephanie Noss, Roy Robinson, Tanya Stambuk, Matt Warning, Peter Wimberger.

Absent: Haile Canton (student), Michael Johnson, John McCuiston

The meeting was called to order 11:05am. Minor revisions were made to the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made to approve the revised minutes; motion was seconded and approved.

Announcements

Robinson announced the upcoming International Education Week activities. These will include a study abroad photo contest, the screening of the documentary *Girl Rising*, an international careers panel, a presentation on study abroad opportunities in Denmark and a bowling event.

Study Abroad Application Working Group

The Study Abroad Application Working Group reported on the results of their recent meetings. There remain a number of unresolved issues regarding the application process. Important among these is the newly-instituted requirement that students submit essays as part of the application process. There was some confusion about whether essays would be required from students in majors for which study abroad is a degree requirement. Wimberger emphasized that students from all majors will be required to write at least one essay.

In response to the poor quality of essays from this year's applicants, Robinson suggested that guidelines be made available to students before drafting their essays.

Robinson also wondered if the application process might benefit from a harmonization of decision criteria used by faculty and Office of International Programs (OIP) staff as concerns so-called "marginal cases," students who do not meet their intended study abroad program requirements, but are nevertheless allowed to participate. While the stated policy is that a student cannot participate in a study abroad unless s/he meets that program's requirement, it appears that this policy is unevenly enforced.

Noss asked why we approve students to participate in a program when they don't meet the program requirements. Mashall reiterated that our expectation is that a student meet their intended program's admission requirements. Stambuk asked if students not meeting requirements

were ever rejected by study abroad programs. Robinson said that this rarely occurs but expressed a concern that we risk exhausting our supply of good will with these programs if we send them too many of our marginal cases. He thought that it would be wise to send only those for whom a strong case for an exception to the requirements could be made. Kelley suggested that we allow the programs to decide, resolving the inconsistency problem. Much discussion ensued, the outcome of which appeared to be that students on the margin should be apprised of the fact that they may not be allowed to participate. The question then arose of how to communicate this new approach to the faculty. Wimberger suggested sending it out via faculty coms just before advising in a brief email. Kelley suggested that the chairs meeting would be another venue through which to communicate this information.

Fall Event Subcommittee

The fall event subcommittee reported on their work. The two functions of the fall event would be to 1) welcome study abroad students back to campus and allow them to showcase their programs, projects and experiences, and to 2) provide relevant information to students considering studying abroad, this latter function coordinated with the Study Abroad Fair. The problem has been that the first welcome back event last year was poorly attended, and that attendees rarely stay longer than the food provided.

Kelley presented a number of ideas on how attendance might be improved, among which was asking faculty to participate. The subcommittee suggested that holding the welcome back event in close physical proximity to the Study Abroad Fair would be advantageous, and they reserved the piano lounge with this intent as the Study Abroad Fair will take place in the Rotunda.

Minutes submitted by Matt Warning. April 24, 2013