

Minutes of the International Education Committee
February 12, 2010

Members Present: Jessie Arends, Gareth Barkin, Becca Davidson, Lisa Ferrari, Mark Harpring, Diane Kelley, John Lear, Donn Marshall, Jannie Meisberger, Jan Moore, Mei Rose, Don Share, Peter Wimberger,

Chair Peter Wimberger convened the meeting at 2:00pm.

M / S / P to approve IEC Minutes from January 29, 2010

Announcements

Mark reminded committee members that the letter to chairs and program directors regarding program needs was sent out at the end of last semester. We should start contacting those departments/programs for feedback.

John mentioned that the “Wednesdays at 4” topic for February 17 is “How to integrate students’ study abroad experiences into the classroom.” If anyone has any suggestions, please send them to John or Mark, both of whom will participate in the discussion.

Peter acknowledged that the single deadline for study abroad applications has brought about an upswing in the number of letters for faculty to write. The committee briefly discussed the language assessment forms that faculty complete; with only one required form for many programs (IES, for example), there seems to be no way for faculty to address non-language issues. Jan Moore said that, if there is an issue to address, faculty should check “with reservation” on the form and that will automatically send the application to the selection committee.

Student Conduct Issues

Peter brought to the committee for discussion a policy in the Academic Handbook which states that students may not apply to study abroad while they are on conduct or academic probation. There is no process in place to petition this rule, yet other rules indeed can be petitioned. Is this a rule that should also be petitionable.

Donn explained the difference between Level 1 and Level 2 conduct probation. If a student is on Level 1 probation s/he may request that the probation be lifted to allow the student to participate in a specific university activity/event. If s/he is on Level 2 probation, then there is no possibility for the student to request that the probation be waived to allow for participation in a university activity. Donn clarified that his office does not lift the conduct probation, but they waive the probation for a specific activity. Waiving conduct probation to allow a student to apply to go abroad is different than waiving it to allow a student, for example, to play in a sports tournament because of country rules and legal issues we have no control over, and university officials are not able to support students while they are abroad.

Don Share added that, since we may have to limit the number of students going abroad in the future, maintaining the current policy would aid in this. Even so, students would still be able to go abroad during

their fourth year at the university if the probation has ended. Lisa also noted that most providers require that you be in good standing *when you apply*.

M/S/P to keep existing policy in place as it stands.

PAC-RIM Review

Diane mentioned that the Pac-Rim subcommittee was very impressed with the program as a whole. They had some questions, and Elisabeth Benard was very helpful in answering questions. The committee also gave some suggestions: the need for a clearer syllabus to guarantee consistency between classes; justification for balance if there is imbalance (short versus long homestays, for example).

Lisa added that Karl Fields would be interested in talking to committee members about their assessment and would like to see a copy of the report.

Don Share asked if there were there any complaints about lack of academic rigor, to which Diane replied that there were none.

Donn Marshall asked if there were challenges identified in previous trips (before last year) that were resolved (the information we have is just from the previous year)

Improvements: Health care provider/research portion/dorm experience in China

Donn noted that there has always been a health coordinator, typically not a health professional, on the trip. This changed recently (a nurse practitioner is on the trip). Will this be continued?

Peter brought up the possibility of a study abroad safety review and asked if we could suggest the university hire someone to look at a program. Jannie responded that it is actually John Hickey's responsibility as he covers risk management for the university.

Diane proposed that we not accept the report until Gareth has chatted with Karl about it

Prioritize goals

Peter believes that criteria for study abroad is something we should tackle first.

Peter added that Maggie Mittuch is willing to come to an IEC meeting, but we should have questions for her next meeting regarding financial aid and what goes on in that office (accounting, advising); we've been charged to provide input for the BTF process.

John suggested we should start moving quickly on the faculty forum, although it was mentioned that this is somewhat irrelevant since the application deadline has now passed.

Peter also added that he, Lisa and Mark will meet with Nick Kontogeorgopoulos to further discuss the Student Life Committee student survey.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Harpring