

International Education Committee Minutes
October 16, 2009 8 a.m.

Committee members present: Mark Harpring, Janet Marcavage, Donn Marshall, Jan Moore, Jannie Meisberger, Mei Rose, Don Share, Peter Wimberger.

Minutes from October 2, 2009 M/S/P as amended, with commendations for job well done.

Student IEC members: Donn agreed to approach the ASUPS president with hopes of moving along the appointment of student IEC members.

Study Abroad Course Evaluation Form: Mark reported that Kathleen Campbell proposes copying the advisor when she sends an electronic acknowledgement to a student about a proposed study abroad. By so doing, she will make sure that the advisor is alerted and can respond to the student as needed. This addresses concerns about notification we heard from some faculty earlier this semester.

Moratorium on approving new study abroad programs: The reason for the moratorium was to allow this committee to conduct program reviews. Since we completed that task (or nearly so) that rationale is now removed, leaving us the question of how to proceed. Several ideas got tossed around:

1. We could consider student proposals for programs not currently listed on a case-by-case basis. We could do so without approving the program itself. This will raise the question of whether we can define and identify “exceptional students” we would want to support in these endeavors. Don proposed that we might not need an “exceptional student” criteria, but could more simply leave the burden of proof on a student proposing a program as to why that program uniquely meets his/her needs.
2. For faculty-initiated programs, we question if there is a “pent up demand.” Should we attempt to distinguish between student and/or faculty-initiated program petitions versus departmental requests for program approval?
3. If a student gets a prestigious fellowship to study at a program not on our current list we will want to expedite that review in order to support that study.

Peter offered this summary of the discussion to this point:

1. If a department initiates a program approval process, IEC will consider for approval.
2. If a student initiates IEC will consider that program for a one time approval. This might be considered a “probationary approval” for the program.

3. If several students go to one program over several years, IEC may then collect the review data and consider lifting the probationary status.

Peter further suggested that IEC consider a rule of removing a program from our approved list if no Puget Sound student has studied there for a period of five years (or three). Such a program would require review before being added back onto our approved list.

Jannie reminded us that we require a four-month lead time for IEC to consider proposals for new programs. Given the February 15 single date for applications for study abroad, that means October 15 will be the program proposal deadline.

Several committee members noted that we seem to be developing consensus that one program approval process – whether initiated by students or faculty – could lead to probationary approval.

Peter noted a preference for forms (useable by both faculty and students) for petitioning for a new program approval be on line, with instruction that the first step in the process is to consult with OIP.

MOTION: IEC agrees IN PRINCIPLE to lift the moratorium on approval of new study abroad programs, with the process for considering new programs to be clarified over the next several weeks. M/S/P

Mark has begun a draft of a memo to departments from IEC that will include information about lifting the moratorium. He will work with Jan and Jannie on the petition form and the letter.

Mark passed out draft IEC questions for departmental interviews, to be reviewed at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donn Marshall