

**International Education Committee Minutes, DRAFT
December 4, 2009**

Committee members present: Gareth Barkin, Becca Davidson, Jessy Arends, Lisa Ferrari, Mark Harpring (chair), Diane Kelley, John Lear, Janet Marcavage, Donn Marshall, Jannie Meisberger, Don Share, Peter Wimberger

Minutes from November 20, 2009 MSP with minor changes.

Mark convened the final meeting of the IEC for the semester at 8 a.m., noting that the agenda included three student proposals to add study abroad programs, and an inquiry by Jannie about the maximum number of semesters that students can study abroad. The Pacific Rim review subcommittee (Diane, Gareth, Mei) announced that it was still working on its report.

I. Proposals to the IEC for New Study Abroad Programs

- 1. Turks and Caicos Proposal, School for Field Studies, Summer Program.** Puget Sound has already approved a full SFS semester program at this site. The main policy concern discussed by the committee was the issue of the program's duration. Lisa noted the faculty mandate that contact hours be spread across at least six weeks. John asked for clarification about the origin of this mandate. Jannie said it originated in the Curriculum Committee, which allowed for exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Lisa agreed to find out more about the mandate, and to clarify which university committees (if any) need to approve any exceptions.

MSP to forward the application to the University Evaluator for consideration. Pending the evaluator's report, the IEC will consider provisional approval of the program at its next meeting.

- 2. Uganda Development Studies/ School for International Training, Semester Program.** Puget Sound currently approves an SIT summer program in Uganda/Rwanda, but Jannie reported that two students have attended that program. Several policy concerns were raised by this proposal:

- a. Lisa noted that it might be unfair that students who apply to add programs might be at a disadvantage if they don't have a personal contact with a member of the IEC (who could act as their advocate during IEC deliberations). She suggested that in order to level the playing field it might make sense to require students to meet with at least one member of the IEC as part of the process. After some discussion, the IEC decided to revise the written application guidelines to include a check box requiring that students meet with Jannie before submitting their application. Jannie could then either discuss the substantive aspects of the proposal with the student, or could direct them to the IEC chair (or another IEC

member). Peter noted that if necessary, and as has been the practice in the past, the IEC could request the presence of an applicant at a committee meeting.

- b. Mark raised a safety issue regarding programs in Uganda, noting that Uganda has passed a law imposing serious punishment directed not only against homosexuals, but against all individuals and organizations who fail to denounce homosexuality. Given that the SIT Nigeria programs work with NGO's, he raised concerns that our students there could risk arrest. Becca noted that in Senegal, where there are similar laws, her SIT program handled the situation appropriately by informing students of the risks and taking action to minimize them. Donn, John, Don, and Gareth noted that there were parallel issues in many countries. Lisa suggested that U.S. Department of State travel warnings, while imperfect, were the best way to handle the issue of security. While acknowledging that risk was inherent in all study abroad, the IEC agreed that it had to place trust in organizations like SIT that have experience on the ground. However, the IEC agreed that OIP should inform students who want to travel to Uganda about the issues raised by Mark.
- c. Don noted that the proposed program is not entirely unique. Development programs are offered in Central America (CGE) and Namibia (CGE).

MSP to forward the application to the University Evaluator for consideration. Pending the evaluator's report, the IEC will consider provisional approval of the program at its next meeting

3. Uganda/Rwanda: Post-Conflict Transformation Program/School for International Training

- a. Donn cautioned about approving semester programs on the basis of prior approval of a similar summer programs, noting that this could become a slippery slope. He also raised concerns that we were approving too many programs in Uganda, at the possible expense of programs elsewhere in Africa.
- b. Lisa noted that the proposed program is not entirely unique. Post-conflict transformation can be studied in other already approved programs, like South Africa or Northern Ireland.

MSP to forward the application to the University Evaluator for consideration. Pending the evaluator's report, the IEC will consider provisional approval of the program at its next meeting

II. Maximum Allowable Semesters of Study Abroad.

Jannie requested that the IEC clarify and publicly reiterate the current university policy regarding the maximum allowable semesters of study abroad. She suggested that this information might be included in *The Logger*. The IEC confirmed that the current university policy is that students

may receive academic credit for one year-long program, or two semester programs, as long as they adhere to the February 15 deadline. Summer programs do not count against this maximum. Students who attend a third semester of study abroad will receive no Puget Sound academic credit or university financial aid for that semester.

The IEC again thanks Mark and Daniel for providing baked goods. Committee members expressed their appreciation to Mark for his outstanding job as IEC chair this semester.

Submitted Respectfully,

Don Share