

International Education Committee

December 6, 2013 Meeting

Attending: Rachel DeMotts, Lisa Ferrari, Diane Kelley, Pepa Lago, Stephanie Noss, Roy Robinson, Matt Warning, Gareth Barkin

Minutes from Nov 22, 2013 meeting were approved.

Roy discussed the need for creation of a Study Abroad Application Review subcommittee to help the Office of International Programs (OIP) staff with final decisions on questionable applications where a student did not meet all of a program's requirements. This review would take place in the first two weeks of February. Gareth and Pepa volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

The committee then discussed the revised Senate charge regarding sexual violence prevention in study abroad programs:

- "With respect to the issue of sexual violence particularly, determine a process for assessing, as part of the approval processes for Puget Sound study abroad programs:
- (1) the student support resources and response protocols for student safety;
 - (2) the number of reported instances of sexual violence at the international program;
 - (3) the efficacy of Puget Sound's safety information for students before they study abroad;
 - (4) the efficacy of Puget Sound reporting and response processes should a sexual violence incident occur."

Roy and Stephanie agreed to begin the information gathering necessary for creation of such an assessment process.

Roy discussed the state of program reviews. The SIT India summer program review is delayed until the first week of January when Kathleen Campbell will complete her assessment. Roy has asked that we give this program tentative approval pending Kathleen's review in case the IEC cannot review it formally before study abroad applications are due. The committee MSP to approve. Kathleen is also working on the IES Beijing Contemporary Issues program. She has contacted the relevant departments and her assessment should be forthcoming. The committee considered the program worthwhile but wondered if there would be excessive overlap with other China programs. The committee decided to discuss this further when we receive the assessment from Kathleen.

Diane spoke to the ongoing challenges in developing an actively-engaged group of residents in the Michel Rocchi International District (MRID). She spoke with Shane Daetwiler, the Director of Residence Life, who is working on creating a coherent theme for the MRID. Several committee members noted problems with the physical layout of the MRID—it is made up of suites on different floors and a trip outside is required to move between some of the suites—and with the notion that students with international interests would find connection over "international interests" rather than their specific fields or regions of study. Diane said that programs and activities within the district have been poorly attended--although Rachel and Roy both observed that this is not a problem unique to Commencement Hall--and wondered if the absence of a common course of study was to blame. Pepa noted that the language house disappeared because it wasn't working and asked if the university was trying to replicate a failed model in the MRID.

Roy shared a list of student residents in the MRID, giving the committee a picture of the diversity of interests represented and highlighting the fact that the MRID fell short of its occupancy goals. He asked if there might be ways to encourage faculty to collaborate with students and staff of the MRID to better market the MRID and its programs to potential study abroad students.

The committee agreed to revisit this issue later and to try to encourage faculty to collaborate with the MRID in organizing events.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Warning