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International Programs Committee (Inactive)

Campus Governance

2-22-2017

International Programs minutes 02/22/2017

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Recommended Citation

International Programs Committee, "International Programs minutes 02/22/2017" (2017). *International Programs Committee (Inactive)*. 33.

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International Programs Committee

February 22, 2017, Prairie Lounge, 8:10am-9:10am

In attendance: Michael Peters, Sheri Breen, Stephanie Ferrian, Leslie Gubash-Lindberg, Viktor Berberi, Ray Lagasse, Joe Alia, Fiona Wu,

1. Policy on study-abroad rotation:

Sheri B. presented to IPC that she had met with Dean Finzel about the study abroad (S.A.) rotation. It appears to her and ACE that the S.A. pipeline for '19 is filling up similar to '18. Sheri brought forth questions that we should be asking. They include: UMM's capacity (number of programs that staff can handle, ability to enroll enough students, and whether each program needs a program provider), rotation and scheduling, proposal and review process, feedback from faculty/staff program leaders, and a proposed timeline.

I. Capacity

Leslie asked if UMM can field a language emphasis S.A. program every year on a 3 year rotation. Ray responded that we need to find a balance to get all areas of campus involved if we can. He insisted that the IPC should be careful not to impose a system onto our faculty and programs if there is already a balance occurring naturally. Viktor also mentioned that if Humanities is the bread and butter of our S.A. programs, we don't want to undercut our recruitment potential by limiting certain disciplines from proposing programs. Stephanie brought up that we do not fit the national norm for S.A. cultures. We have more men, STEM students, POC mostly because of our short-term programs.

II. Rotation and Scheduling

Viktor requested more information on which disciplines send students abroad and if there is a pattern or missing group. ACE staff responded that there is a strong presence from a variety of disciplines, but that they will gather more information before the next IPC meeting.

Sheri's questions brought forth discussion on the frequency of program rotation. She indicated that allowing programs to go every two years ties up spaces where we could introduce new programs and boost fledgling programs that have gone once or twice, but don't have their legs quite under them yet. Her questions also brought up whether or not we should schedule and plan for programs further ahead in time than what we are currently doing (year to year). The debate and discussion in IPC currently indicates a desire to plan further out for established programs to ensure stability and allow for planning while also allowing for flexibility for new and beginning programs.

Leslie asked whether our current criterion asks for diversity. Sheri responded that yes, we do ask for it and she normally (as the faculty liaison) is in contact with the program leaders far before the application is due. The criteria for diversity are somewhat vague though as it does not describe what kinds of diversity IPC is interested.

Ray stated that having a more formal rotation will assist students and professors in planning out their graduation map. Viktor echoed this sentiment and noted that the French discipline already does this with July in Paris, also similar to Geology with Geology in Italy, which is on a two-year rotating cycle. Stephanie pointed out that a more regular schedule for the rotating programs would allow IPC to communicate our preference (i.e. non-western Europe, more foreign language, or STEM) to leaders preparing new programs. These open slots in the schedule rotation would allow for innovation in our S.A. programs and might also permit us to tie a S.A. program slot 2-3 years out to the EDP grants that we award.

III. Proposal and review process

Sheri's suggestions led us to discuss whether our review process was generating the kinds of programs we want to occur in addition to if we want to have more input from the disciplines and divisions during the application process. IPC generally agreed that we should be speaking with discipline and divisions (especially division heads) during the process. This will ensure more fairness and will allow for more feedback to program leaders on the front end of each proposal.

Other topics discussed included the concerns of ACE in that we do need to take into account which programs will make money or at the least fully support themselves. UMM does not currently have a pool of money to draw upon like the LAC if programs are short students and do not make their budgets. Leslie and Sheri wanted to ensure that we are providing more opportunities for non-English language programs to promote diversity of learning for our students. Stephanie asked if S.A. courses can start to double-dip for gen-eds and if we can push more disciplines to attach major credits to S.A. courses. This would be a part of a larger advising process when working with program leaders developing programs.

IV. Feedback from faculty/staff program leaders

Sheri noted that this was under way and that she is collecting feedback from those faculty and staff who are leading/have led programs to give IPC a better idea of the concerns of program leaders.

At IPC's next meeting we will discuss the feedback that we have received from the program leaders. Michael, Sheri, Stephanie, and Viktor will work together before that meeting to draft a recommendation to Dean Finzel for changes to the S.A. application and review process.

2. Application Fee for study abroad programs

ACE intends to institute an application fee of \$50 for UMM programs. This is in line with other U of M campuses.

3. Elimination of committees

Leslie brought forth that the idea has been floated to eliminate several committees on campus as people believe there are too many committees. We will be on the watch for this, but are not concerned of our standing as we play a vital role in student academics.

