3-22-2012

International Programs minutes 3/22/2012

International Programs Committee

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Minutes of International Programming Committee meeting
Thursday, March 22, 2012
9-10 AM, Imholte 202

Members present:

Tim Soderberg, chair (Science & Math)
Michael Peters (Student)
Chlene Anderson (Online Learning)
Pilar Eble (International Student Program)
Marynel Ryan Van Zee (Social Science, Faculty Coordinator for Study Abroad)
Jimmy Schriver (Humanities)
Sarah Ashkar (ACE office, Student Study Abroad advisor)

Members not present:

Sheng Xiao (Social Science)
KT Lindeman (Student)
Kristian Nyberg (Student)
Cha Vue (Student)
Irene Maloney (advising)

Guest: Argie Manolis (Office of Community Engagement)

1) Johnson Fund for International Service Learning

Discussion/brainstorming re. developing a process for awarding grants from the Johnson
Fund for International Service Learning (see item 1b from 02-09-12 minutes).

Argie Manolis distributed a handout reviewing best practices for service learning
projects.   Four main points:

i) Detailed contract between student and community partner
ii) Pre-service training
iii) Ongoing evaluation activities conducted by faculty member or community partner
iv) Post-project assessment

Argie mentioned that a major challenge is that there are very few resources for evaluating
programs, other than word of mouth reports.

Big questions:

a) How do we deal with applications to work with faith-based organizations?

b) How do we make sure that students applying for the grant have documented how they have looked into/learned about best practices and training for the experience?

c) How do we make sure that students applying for the grant have documented how they have looked into the safety/legitimacy of the program?

d) How do we handle non-credit bearing experiences?

Regarding a), the feeling of the committee was that religious organizations are fine as long as they are involved in community service projects and not prosthelytizing.

Regarding b, c and d, the idea was floated to create a two-credit course on community service organizations. This course could be offered in the spring semester, perhaps in a 'hybrid' format. Students who are awarded a scholarship would be required to take the course before leaving for their program. Applications for the scholarship would be due sometime in the fall semester, so students would know the outcome in time to sign up for the course. In cases where the student is participating in an established program with a well-documented training and evaluation component, the course requirement could be waived. The course would be open to all students interesting in learning about how community service organizations work, not just scholarship awardees.

Moving forward:

Tim Soderberg will contact Dean Finzel to request any specific information he has regarding Dave Johnson's vision for how the funds should be used.

Argie Manolis and Sarah Ashkar will begin work on spelling out the details of an application process and course offering. The committee will revisit the issue in its next meeting.

2) Subcommittee updates:

a) Student study abroad scholarships (Tim Soderberg): There were 30 applicants for the May/Summer term courses, and 11 scholarships ($750 each) were awarded, spread fairly evenly among the five courses plus one to an ELTAP student. This leaves one more scholarship in the original $9000 pool, but there is approximately $2700 additional coming from the International Study Abroad program that can be awarded - Sharon Van Eps is trying to get all of this collected from ISA in the next few weeks. The deadline for the fall round is April 13, and Sarah Ashkar reported that there will probably be at least

four applications from students participating in exchange programs. The remaining funds will be awarded as scholarships (May/Summer and/or Fall) soon after this date.

b) International Curriculum Development grants: Jimmy Schriver reported that the one application received before the deadline was awarded ($3000 to Michael Eble to develop an art course in Provence, France).

3) Feedback to Sarah Ashkar on study abroad handbook

Time was running short, but Sarah has already gotten feedback from Jimmy on a previous draft and clarified that ACE would also be developing a handbook targeted to students who had already made the decision to enroll in a study abroad program, with the goal of getting them prepared to go - this 'post-decision' handbook would address many of Jimmy's suggestions. Tim added the general suggestion to emphasize (even more) how important it is to start planning early with academic and ACE advisors.

4) Report from Marynel on feedback from faculty regarding working with LAC

Marynel had to leave for class at 9:45, so this item was postponed for a future meeting.

Minutes submitted by Tim Soderberg