Minutes: IESC Room : HSS 336

Attending: Uma Shrestha, Eliot Dickinson, Karen Haberman, Daryl Thomas, Michele Price, Isidore Lobnibe, Kit Andrews, John Rector, David McDonald

Agenda Item	Who	Outcome/Followup
0	Michele Price	Semester at Sea was first proposed last May, 2009.
Timely		There were serious concerns expressed by several
Decision		IESC members, so endorsement has been deferred up
Making by the		until this point.
IESC	Karen Haberman	Clarify our procedure regarding program approval, including developing a reasonable timeline from the time Michele introduces a program until the time we vote on it. Karen proposes: the same procedure used by Faculty Senate. This means that IESC would discuss any new programs proposed by Michele at one meeting, go back to each division and discuss the proposed program at division meetings (generally two weeks after our committee meeting), and be ready to vote at the next meeting. One caveat: if key issues arise (via discussion with division members) that require further information, we reserve the right to postpone the vote until that information is obtained and discussed. This proposal was not voted on at this meeting.
New process to accommodate students in Study Abroad limbo	Michele Price	Proposal for IESC to endorse a process that is already used in OUS institutions, for students to study abroad and use their financial aid in programs not yet endorsed by WOU. When students go to programs not already approved at WOU, there is an arduous process where they must drop from WOU, drop their financial aid, go to the program, then transfer their study abroad credits in later (if possible). This new proposal would allow students to apply for a certain program and get special approval from IESC and the Study Abroad Office. Michele would vett each program for safety, security and credibility. The student would get approval from their advisor and approval for credit from the appropriate departments. Then IESC can review and endorse each application on its individual merit. This would allow students to stay enrolled at WOU and also use their financial aid. Michele believes this will

Semester at Sea and SEA		only be for about 6 students per year. After some discussion the IESC voted to allow this proposal to proceed. This process will alleviate some of the delays that Study Abroad Office experiences. Michele will write a draft proposal for review before the next meeting. IESC member were asked by email to present this to each department for review and comment in
Semester	Karen Haberman	Novemeber 09. In Jan 2010, Karen Haberman sent information about environmental impact of cruise ships (Friends of the Earth summary of U.S. EPA report 2008; and ISO 14001:2004 certification essentials) and also proposed an alternative program (SEA Semester on smaller sailing vessels) that is environmentally conscious and science focused.
	Michele Price	Michele already emailed all IESC members the information about : questions IESC raised about the Semester at Sea program/University of Virginia and also attached the responses to our questions. Michele thinks they have thoroughly and more than adequately answered all of our concerns, and respectfully requests that we reconsider endorsement of this program. One of the primary goals of the Study Abroad office is to make as many quality opportunities available to WOU students as possible, and after reading the succinct responses to IESC questions and after many meetings in person and via telephone with Marty Greenham, the representative for this region, Michele is certain than ever that bringing this program to IESC for consideration and endorsement is the right thing to do. Michele has WOU students who specifically want Semester at Sea. In fact, one student was so determined to do this program that he proceeded with enrolling and will forego his financial aid for the upcoming winter/spring semester even though he really cannot afford to do so. As far as considering the Sea Semester program, there is nothing to preclude IESC from offering two sea based programs which offer two different kinds of experiences to students if we so choose.
	Members	The IESC discussion followed: Academic merit of the Semester at Sea; most members

Study Abroad as fulfillment of LACC	members	agreed the U of Virginia had adequately covered this area. Type of study abroad experience: does a cruise ship qualify as visiting another country? The program visits several countries in one semester and the students are engaged in projects in each. Can students achieve in depth experience of a country if they are there only a few days? Faculty noticed even when students lived in one country they would travel extensively even to the point of exhaustion. Students want to travel and not just sit in one place. Can students integrate their experiences: one semester is long enough for students to integrate. Environmental impact: cruise ships are the worst polluters of all forms of travel. Should we promote and endorse this as a study abroad experience? What is WOU's position on environmental impact? Paying attention to this vital issue is now essential. How can we promote international choices and accept a wider number of experiences for our students and still be watchful and responsible for our carbon footprint? This committee then agreed to take this discussion to each department, and get a vote /concensus to bring back to the IESC meeting in Feb. for discussion and vote. As a proposal for next month's agenda: How can IESC get study abroad incorporated as part of LACC requirements? International Studies degree program has study abroad as a requirement. History, Social Science are natural degree programs that would benefit from study abroad. How can COE students
		• • •
Minutes	Daryl Thomas	Daryl agreed to write up and distribute the minutes of IESC this year.