

International Education and Services Committee meeting.
April 17, 2007

In Attendance: Daryl Thomas, Doug Smith, Claudia De Soller, John Rector, Michele Price, Erin Van Dusal, International Students Office (Neng is in China), Jie Liu.

1. Michele presented a request to determine the next step in pursuing an interest in Feevale University of Brazil. A WOU student initiated contact with Feevale and presented this connection with great enthusiasm & initiative to President Minahan. Pres. Minahan requested Michele to investigate further.

Feevale seems like a fine university, need more communication. Perhaps international students/scholars dept. would investigate taking this as part of 2x2 program. WOU has yet to expand WOU International exchange into S. America though there are currently two study abroad programs in that region. Is it feasible for WOU to look at exchanging students, setting up a new program? Michele explained she has a limited budget for tuition & fee remissions.

This is a rather unusual request, since it is initiated by a student and the president. The next step would be to send a delegation to investigate, but Study Abroad and International Exchanges is not allocated funds for these kinds of visits. Because of this, new WOU programs are usually through consortia partners, such as OUS, who evaluate the site and develop the program before offering it to its members. Developing our own programs is more expensive. The committee chair will send a letter to president to see if he wants to invest in a delegation to explore study abroad: recommending study abroad office, international student and scholars affairs office & at least one faculty member.

2) There was a formal Gongju delegation to sign the contract with WOU in March. Now there will be a delegation of faculty and students attending WOU in June & July. Michele has a requested volunteer faculty families to host some of the Korean students for home stay weekends. This would involve having the students stay for consecutive weekends and participate in usual family activities. Michele had handouts to distribute to interested faculty for all departments.

3. The issue of getting Diversity credit for study abroad was again brought up. In order to make this official this must go through Nancy France, Admissions and then the Faculty Senate curriculum committee. John will contact Nancy. Michele will write up a draft.

4. Erin reported that there are currently 191 International students (97 ESL, 94 nonESL). 116 from China (46 Regular, 70 ESL), 21 from Japan and a growing Saudi Arabian population. Most students are majoring in business, computer science, I.T. and education.

The International Students and Scholars Office has system of testing for English: IELTS test similar to TOEFL will be administered June 9th.

Four faculty, on a special grant for international development, will be going to China this coming summer. The process included Division nominations; the faculty submitted applications, the Provost reviewed & selected from applications.

Gong Dung Poly Tech University delegation toured campus, already have agreement with WOU. This is new information for us. The committee requests that information about international guests is made available so we can be ready to welcome them. Erin said sometimes their office does not always know until the last minute.

Discussion of process of integration of international students at WOU: Not much information- need to get faculty more involved. Recommend faculty seminar – information & discussion & collaboration with experienced faculty currently at WOU.

Housing, Student Affairs have called International Students Office requesting information and training regarding students behavior and/or a class on sensitivity. International students may also need ongoing classes for research, presentation, and writing. Issues have arisen in classes; there are different cultural rules regarding plagiarism. Long discussion followed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00PM