

International and Domestic Off-Campus Studies Committee Minutes

October 8, 2003

Members Present: Wendy Allen (chair), Roseanne Galegher, Sally Gonzalez, Kim Kandl, Kent McWilliams, Nathan Soland, Pat Quade, and Tom Williamson.

Old Business:

1. Minutes of October 1, 2003 were approved. Kim Kandl will send a copy of the subcommittee's notes on the interim programs electronically to be attached to the minutes on line.

New Business:

1. Pat Quade gave an up-to-date report on the 2004 interims. The Math 290 Biosphere interim has been cancelled due to Columbia University's cancellation of their program at the Biosphere. With Columbia University leaving, the infrastructure of the Biosphere project will be dismantled. Spanish 270 in Spain has been cancelled due to low enrollment. The application deadline for the Hewlett interims has been extended to November. How best to get the information out to first year students was discussed. Area coordinators, junior counselors and first year advisors are contacts who have direct communication with first-year students. Regarding Religion 219, it was noted that only first-year students currently enrolled in Religion 121 are eligible. A note will be sent to instructors teaching that Level 1 course, urging them to discuss this interim with their students.
2. Pat has met with the Center for Experiential Learning to discuss the international internships. Liability, health, safety and security were brought up as key issues that needed to be addressed. International & Off-Campus Studies will work with CEL to put into place a brief orientation, a system of parent and student waivers, and some safety notices.
3. International Education week is November 17 - 21. Pat suggested that a faculty development grant be used to instruct faculty on how to internationalize their courses. A list of students who have returned to campus from off-campus programs will be sent to all faculty. This will allow faculty who so desire the opportunity to have these students share their international experiences with classmates. During class registration, photos from previous photo contests and a collage of memorabilia including handwritten notes, international clothing and art work, will be displayed as students are waiting in line. A suggestion to Bon Appetit to prepare international dishes for the week will be pursued.
4. The subcommittee charged with examining preparation and follow-up for term programs reported its findings. This report is attached as part of these minutes. Key points discussed for both the field-supervised and non field-supervised programs were:

- Preparation of students: how best to prepare students for cultural immersion? This shouldn't be the responsibility of the International & Off-Campus Studies office alone, but more of Field Supervisor. We need to better equip Field Supervisors with the tools required to promote cultural immersion.
- Pre-departure and on-campus orientation sessions: these need to be changed to provide a more academic focus. Experts in different academic areas can be invited to speak at orientation. Beginning the orientation with lessons on the geography, history, sociology, and economic and political systems of the different countries would set a positive context for learning.
- In-country orientation should be strengthened. Perhaps devote some time on the first day in a new country to review by students of what they know about the country from orientation sessions and/or pre-departure reading.
- Follow-up and re-entry needs be redefined. The re-entry process is at a different level for every student. Asking students to speak in class about their study abroad experiences or finding ways whereby students can incorporate their cross cultural learning experience into a class project are useful ways to deepen and extend the global perspective not only of these students but of all students.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Roseanne Galegher