

International and Off-Campus Programs Committee

Hamline University

Minutes for Friday, February 20, 3 p.m.

Present: Van Dusenbery (chair), Joe Lewis (minute taker), Hossein Akhavi-Pour; *Ex officio*: Kari Richtsmeier, Kim Zielinski, Christine Diaz-Higgins, Jackie Johnson, Chris Kipp, Ayn Rassier. *Missing*: Zhenqing Zhang, M Sheridan Embser-Herbert, Shawn Skoog.

International Student Update (Chris):

The spring orientation was a success. There are 16 new students – 8 degree seeking (largely from HSB and mostly from China) and 8 ISEP exchange students.

IOCP is facing challenges with counseling and health services for international students. Hamline's counseling and Health Services office feels that it cannot handle all of the international student needs. Students are often referred back to IOCP. IOCP is considering getting trained to offer additional support to students.

A similar trend has occurred in other areas (safety and security, the writing center, admissions, advising Curricular Practice Training, etc.). IOCP is concerned that international students are not receiving adequate services in a number of areas, in part because resources are sparse across the university. The problem is likely to grow as an international student numbers increase. If we want to maintain strong international student numbers, we need a long term plan to address legitimate concerns about student service.

Upcoming events: OPT (optional practical training) session; tax season session for international students.

IOCP is looking for more participants in the Global families program.

Chris recently returned from a trip to Korea. There is potential for a new international program developing at Korea University.

Study Abroad (Kim):

32 total applications are in for Spring 2016:

- 10 ISEP
- 6 for Akita
- 5 for York
- 1 for HECUA
- 3 fo Cologne
- 2 for Shanghai
- 4 IES

Susie Steinbach is working on a new pricing structure for the York program (re housing).

Short term study abroad went well generally. A few minor issues with the Jamaica trip have been addressed.

Spring 2015: Argentina is a go. The group is departing on Memorial Day.

Applications for 2016 open on April 15. J-Term deadline: Sept 15. May Term deadline: Nov. 15.

Pending Question: How will the Law School departure affect Generation Study Abroad numbers and finances? IOCP has concerns about what will happen to our international law students as the Mitchell Hamline merger proceeds.

Admissions (Ayn):

After a reconfiguration of her position, Ayn is now recruiting for both grad and undergrad international admissions and will represent both on this committee (although Shawn will be kept in the loop).

Grads – The general trend is good; numbers are growing; international deadlines have been created for visas and the application process.

Undergrads – Very good admit numbers (double compared to last year) coming in from a wide variety of countries. It is still very early to predict final numbers, but the trend is good. Many applicants express financial concerns about coming to Hamline; this is the main reason why they don't come.

Status of "Center for Global Engagement" (Kari):

Kari and the Provost met last semester about changing IOCP to CGE and expanding the role of the office.

Possibilities include:

- A dedicated space for visiting or displaced scholars
- Career support for students
- Expansion of post grad fellowships
- Targeted programming

Unfortunately, the new plan has been tabled until university budget issues have been resolved. Meanwhile, there are real resource issues with IOCP sustaining its current level of support for international students.

Ideas generated during the meeting:

- Faculty members should offer reports at school faculty meetings and "talk up" the international programs in their schools and departments;
- It's essential that current students receive good services so that they continue to give positive feedback to prospective students.

Future Meeting Dates and Times:

- Friday, March 13, 3-4 p.m.
- Friday, April 17, 3-4 p.m.
- Friday, May 15, 3-4 p.m. (as needed).