Minutes

**International Education Committee**

Thursday September 14, 2023

3:30 to 5:00 pm

**Attendees:**

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| Tammy Montgomery – Co Chair  Richard Mowrer – Co Chair  Riad Bahhur – SCC  Holly Piscopo - SCC  Debbie Worth – FLC  Dennis Lee - SCC | Kevin Porter - ARC  Kamau Kinuthia – ARC  Adam Windham - ARC  Danielle Heard Mollel - CRC  Kayla Anaya – ARC |

**Guest:**

Dr. Patrick Chapman, South Puget Sound Community College

**Welcome and Introductions:**

* Returning co-chairs, Tammy and Richard, welcomed returning members. Discussion followed about requesting one staff member be added to the membership of the committee from each college. (Current regs list 2 staff as members.) Tammy will follow up on this and report back on the process for adding this language to the regs.
* Committee members also expressed interest in inviting students to our meetings. Members were to take this back to their colleges. Kayla will reach out to students and IE staff at the colleges to encourage participation.
* Meetings for the academic year were confirmed as: 9/14, 11/9, 2/8, 4/11

**Review/Approval of**

* April 13 minutes—Members were given until the next meeting on 11/9 to review these minutes since not everyone had an opportunity to do so.
* September 14 agenda—approved by attendees.

**Update on International Education Fees**

* In our April 13, 2023, meeting, IE students expressed their concern regarding international student fees. Following that meeting, Tammy set up a meeting with these students and CFO Mario Rodriguez who explained the process to students and how Los Rios determines the fees.
* One member in the September 14, 2023, meeting pointed out that Sierra’s fees were less than ours and wondered why. There was a request to invite Mario to our next IE meeting to explain how and why Los Rios sets its international student fees.

**District Study Abroad Program**

* District Study Abroad Coordinator/Administrator Adam Windham shared an updated version of the faculty application process. Former faculty study abroad participants participated in the application revision process and will assist with the selection process this fall.
* Members of IE expressed an interest in convening a subcommittee of IE for District Study Abroad. Members from IE as well as some former faculty study abroad participants would be appointed to the subcommittee to assist with such processes in the future.

**Guest Speaker**

Dr. Patrick Chapman, Professor of Anthropology, South Puget Sound Community College shared his experiences in expanding international education opportunities at his institution for faculty and students. He also discussed tying study abroad to transfer and shared how he had done this with a partnering university in New Zealand. Over time, he has developed transfer agreements in 44 majors with 9 more coming. He emphasized that in some cases, it’s less expensive for students to complete their baccalaureate degrees overseas than in the U.S.

Dr Chapman has worked as a forensic anthropologist, although his PhD research focused on East Polynesian migration patterns, with special attention paid to Easter Island (Rapa Nui). After teaching at both the University of Wyoming and University of Otago, Dr Chapman returned to the Puget Sound area to teach at SPSCC in 1999. He continues to conduct research in Polynesia and works to promote internationalization at SPSCC, including having led short-term study abroad programs to New Zealand, Ireland, Scotland, London and Egypt.

**College Study Abroad Programs (faculty-led programs)**

* Regulation 7151 includes information regarding college-based, faculty-led study abroad. The difficulty is that faculty have been on their own in developing such programs and are looking for assistance. Richard, who has been doing study abroad in Paris, drafted the process he went through to get his program going and approved.
* Because Richard used AIFS, which is the organization that runs our District Study Abroad program, FLC and the District have been open to approving his program several times without hesitation because AIFS has proven to be a trusted partner. Despite this, it has still been difficult to move the paperwork through the process. Tammy shared a rough draft of the approval process based upon R-7151. All agreed that this could be refined and added to Richard’s draft of the overall process he went through.
* The committee also acknowledged that faculty developing trips using contractors other than AIFS (since AIFS doesn’t go everywhere) were unsure of the steps they needed to take to get a proposal approved and a contractor vetted and approved. Tammy posted a rough draft of this process in the IE folder as well.
* The committee agreed to form an ad hoc group to develop a planning guide for faculty-led study abroad. Riad, Dennis, Richard, and Tammy agreed to meet for this purpose.

**Adjourned at 5:00 pm**

**Move to 11/9 agenda**

**Updates from Faculty**

* Reports from those returning from programs (Richard)
* Programs under development (Danielle, Debi, Riad)
* NAFSA Annual Conference in Washington, DC (Riad)
* Study Abroad Consortium (Adam)
* Information on IE opportunities/events/clubs at the colleges (all)