

International Education and Service Committee: Monthly Meeting Minutes

Agenda Date: Oct 6th, 2023

Time: 12 -1 pm

Location: Zoom <https://wou-edu.zoom.us/j/84608295205>

Attendance: Ann Bliss, Tim Cowart, Ya-Fang Cheng, Feier Hou, Joe Macade, Rajeeb Poudel, Ricardo Pelegrín-Taboada, Sean Roush

Welcomes new members and discusses agenda.

- Reviewing the bylaws and discussing the terms of the committee chair.
- New OIE director Joe and Audry's for Study Aboard

Each committee member introduced themselves and shared why joining the committee:

- Ya-Fang Cheng seeks to support international students
- Ann Bliss has experience leading study abroad programs and supporting international students at Western.
- Sean Roush, Program Director for Occupational Therapy, is excited to bring an international program to EU students and has experience taking students overseas for about 7-8 years.
- Timothy Cowart, Head of Dance Program, has led students overseas in the past and is interested in taking students to Italy, Japan, Israel, and England in the future.
- Ricardo Pelegrin Taboada, new coordinator for ethnic studies, shares his background and international connections to support international students.
- Raji Polo shares experiences as an international student and teacher, hoping to increase international student involvement.
- Feier Hou, an associate professor from the chemistry department, wants to help international students succeed in the US.
- Joseph Macade has extensive experience working with international students and programs, including as an assistant dean and head of a State Department refugee education program. Joe seeks to revamp recruitment strategies and reduce tuition to compete with overseas universities.

Discussed International student scholarships and funding at Western University

- International Cultural Service Program Scholarship
- Joseph Macade explains that scholarships for international students at WOU have disappeared due to decentralization, making it unaffordable for most students.
- Rajeeb Poudel shares firsthand experiences from Nepalese

students who find it unaffordable to attend WOU due to exorbitant tuition fees.

Discussed International education and recruitment strategies.

- Committee notes we used to use agents for recruitment due to familiarity and quality of work, but notes it's labor-intensive, expensive, and requires training.
- Committee discusses supporting international students and sharing ideas for improvement with Faculty Senate.
- Cheng discusses challenges with staffing and support for study abroad programs.
- Macade emphasizes the urgency for universities to address declining international enrollments due to demographic changes.

Committee discusses recruitment strategies, including leveraging existing connections and conducting surveys.

Ya-Fang Cheng and Joseph Macade discuss supporting international students, including field trip events and re-establishing the international student club.

- Discussed ways to build community and reduce tuition fees.
- Timothy Cowart suggests adding scholarships or emission reduction initiatives to the college's agenda, with Joseph Macade and Sean Roush expressing interest in learning more about the decision-making process.
- Seeking to establish scholarships for international students and review policies for student travel abroad.
- Study abroad policies and survey. Committee members discuss ways to support the office and improve study abroad programs.
- Joseph and Ya-Fang discuss ways to engage international students on campus, including hosting events and job fairs.