

IES Committee_ Nov Meeting Minutes

Fri, Nov 03, 2023 12:01PM • 1:06:20

Attendance: Ann Bliss, Tim Cowart, Ya-Fang Cheng, Feier Hou, Joe Macade, Rajeeb Poudel, Ricardo Pelegrín-Taboada, Sean Roush, Erin Trine, Ardy Clark, Jacen Miller, Rosario Peralta, Pete Hoffecker Mejia

International Education and Service Committee: Monthly Meeting

Summary

- **Supporting international students at a university.** [0:00](#)
 - Ya-Fang Cheng and others discuss their roles and departments at a committee meeting.
 - International students share experiences and perspectives in a university setting.
 - New faces with diverse experiences join the committee, eager to support international students.
- **Study abroad programs and scholarships.** [7:14](#)
 - Joe introduces himself as new director of International Education and Development.
 - Ricardo Pelegrin Taboada shares his experience as an international student and coordinator of ethnic and Latin American Studies programs to help connect students with resources.
 - Ya-Fang Cheng shares meeting notes and invites feedback on agenda items, including updates from the Office of Study Abroad and International Education and Development, and a study abroad experience survey for faculty.
- **Study abroad office's busy schedule and staff changes.** [14:01](#)
 - Audrey shares updates on the study abroad office, including increased interest from first-year students and ongoing challenges with grading and equivalencies.
 - Department facing staffing changes and uncertainty, but renewed interest in faculty-led programming.
- **Study abroad programs and their accessibility.** [18:54](#)
 - Audrey advocates for more affordable and accessible study abroad programs for low-income and first-generation students.
 - Faculty led study abroad programs provide growth opportunities for both students and faculty.
 - Committee discusses ways to make study abroad more accessible and affordable for students.

- **Study abroad opportunities and resources for students.** [26:03](#)
 - Erin Trine mentions a summer study abroad program through the Siena School where students can learn about Italian culture and sign language, with some students receiving full scholarships.
 - Rosario and Audrey discuss the lack of resources and manpower for students to find study abroad opportunities, with past offices having robust databases but lacking personpower to maintain them.
 - Audrey and Feier Hou suggest collecting data through surveys or meetings to advocate for study abroad programs, with a focus on student interest and retention.
 - Sean Roush agrees that building critical mass and demonstrating interest from a large number of people can help prioritize study abroad initiatives.
 - Audrey highlights the importance of showcasing the direct impact of study abroad programs on students' academic progress and retention, and suggests leveraging alumni experiences to demonstrate this.
 - Sean Roush shares how hearing from students who have studied abroad can be a powerful tool for retaining and committing to Western, and suggests using video projects as a recruitment tool.
- **Supporting international students in Western attracting more.** [35:53](#)
 - Ya-Fang Cheng seeks input from colleagues on study abroad programs to help students meet course requirements.
 - International students face barriers such as lack of scholarships and federal regulations, which can deter them from applying to Western.
- **University budget and recruitment strategies.** [40:17](#)
 - Joseph Macade advocates for reducing out-of-state tuition to attract more international students.
 - University representative focuses on marketing through international recruitment agents and edited materials to appeal to overseas students.
- **International partnerships and teacher training programs.** [47:27](#)
 - Ricardo Pelegrin Taboada shares his experience as a Cuban faculty member at a university in the US, mentioning his connection to Miami and his willingness to support outreach efforts there.
 - Joseph Macade expresses interest in building connections with Cuba and seeking Ricardo's help in influencing the ideal position to do so.
 - Rosario and Joseph discuss past international student programs, potential for future partnerships.

- **Study abroad programs and funding.** [52:30](#)
 - The committee discusses strategies for supporting diverse students in study abroad programs, including sharing stories and resources.
 - The committee discusses ways to support students in studying abroad, including scholarship resources and research on the benefits of study abroad.
 - Joseph Macade shares his perspective on the provost's support for faculty-led study abroad programs.
 - Study abroad program is a valuable recruitment tool for universities, but requires resources and faces bureaucratic challenges.
 - The committee discusses marketing materials for an upcoming conference.