

IES Committee Monthly Meeting

Date: 02.02.24

Time: noon-1 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendance: Ann Bliss, Ya-Fang Cheng, Feier Hou, Joe Macade, Rajeeb Poudel, Ricardo Pelegrín-Taboada, Sean Roush, Dani Lane, Erin Trine, Ardy Clark, Maria Rosario Peralta Cortez

- **Study abroad program agenda and minutes review.**
 - Ya-Fang Cheng shares the agenda and meeting notes for the week, including a review of last semester's minutes and a continuation of ideas for the board.
 - Ya-Fang Cheng plans to create presentation slides for faculty senate and invite Provost and Bev to discuss study abroad program.
- **International recruitment fair and agent contracts.**
 - Macade meets with 73 international recruitment agents in Miami, with majority from India.
 - Macade hopes to secure 30-40 agent contracts after a lengthy and labor-intensive process.
- **International student recruitment and partnerships.**
 - Macade highlights the diversity of international agents and potential for recruitment, while Cheng and Pelegrin Taboada inquire about contacting institutions abroad.
 - Recruiters express interest in bringing more international students to Western, but lack resources.
 - Joseph discusses challenges with reporting structure and resource allocation.
 - Ya-Fang Cheng inquires about finding previous partners for cooperation and documentation.
- **Study abroad program's future plans and survey.**
 - Audrey discusses the status of Study Abroad program with students, despite being on pause.
- **Gathering information for study abroad program post-COVID.**
 - Faculty discuss the purpose of collecting data on study abroad experiences, acknowledging program hiatus and tension.
 - Committee seeks to gather information for rebuilding post-COVID program.
 - Faculty discussed who was responsible for the pause.
- **Gathering voices for study abroad program via survey**

- Ya-Fang Cheng and Sean Roush discuss timeline for presenting Faculty Senate report, agreeing on two weeks from date of sending for reasonable turnaround time.
 - Participants discuss adding open-ended questions to survey to gather more detailed information.
- **International education opportunities at a university.**
 - Participants discuss the importance of international education and experiences for students, with some viewing it as a luxury and others as a systemic issue.
 - Participants discuss the feasibility of a study abroad program, with a focus on challenges and opportunities.
- **Study abroad program and faculty senate meeting.**
 - Committee members discuss potential meeting with Tina and Bev West before faculty senate presentation.
 - Faculty discuss study abroad program goals, challenges, and potential solutions for a March meeting with Provost.
 - Committee members discuss and brainstorm ideas for a survey to gauge interest on campus, with a focus on shared governance and prioritizing questions to ask.