

IES Committee Monthly Meeting

Date: 03.01.24

Time: noon-1 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendance: Ann Bliss, Ya-Fang Cheng, Feier Hou, Joe Macade, Rajeeb Poudel, Sean Roush, Dani Lane, Erin Trine, Ardy Clark

Summary

Faculty-led study abroad programs face challenges such as compliance issues, financial viability, and lack of support from the study abroad office. Ya-Fan expressed concerns about the lack of support, while Rajeeb emphasized the importance of communication and support. Joe and YaFang discussed the challenges faced by study abroad programs, including adjusting tuition fees, addressing scholarship opportunities, and navigating partnership arrangements with universities and organizations. Joe emphasized the importance of reviewing applications and issuing acceptance letters, while Cheng raised questions about the university's commitment to supporting and committing to study abroad programs.

Action Items

- [] Finish agent training PowerPoint and conduct training sessions.
- [] Explore reinstating study abroad application fee.
- [] Set up meeting to discuss resuming art school exchange.
- [] Provide concrete, financially viable steps to Provost to help move study abroad forward.
- [] Clarify if legal compliance issues will block moving forward with study abroad.
- [] Follow up on Terra Dotta software renewal and reimbursement.
- [] Develop partnerships and exchanges to make study abroad more affordable.
- [] Calculate costs for new faculty-led study abroad office model.
- [] Talk to General Counsel about legal compliance issues.
- [] Develop job description for study abroad director role.

Outline

Agenda items and office update.

Ya-Fang discuss agenda and welcome attendees.

Study abroad program updates and options.

- Adry discusses upcoming decisions regarding study abroad software renewal and student interest.

- Adry shares updates on study abroad program, including collaboration with Oregon State University.

University admissions and partnerships.

- Sean expresses concerns about the lack of scholarships and considers reinstating the application fee to filter out unserious applicants.
- Sean discusses potential partnerships with universities in South Asia and Kazakhstan for certificate programs.

Study abroad program affordability and accessibility.

- Ya-Fang expresses concerns about lack of clarity on study abroad program's status and supervision.
- Provost seeks to establish a study abroad director position and explore fundraising options to make the program more affordable.

Study abroad compliance and financial aid.

- Adry mentions meeting with Kella Helyer and Amy Clark, who informed them of PSU's financial aid issues and the school's subsequent temporary compliance issues.
- Sean asks if the issue is a "speed bump" that will hinder progress, and the group discusses the potential impact on their process without involving Adry directly.
- Ya-Fang wants to learn about new guidelines for working with outside companies in educational programming.
- Rajeeb expresses concern about losing students to other universities if the school doesn't provide necessary resources.
- Creating a concrete plan with financial viability to make the proposal more appealing.

Study abroad program funding and administration.

- Kristen Clay's halftime release is not enough for the Honors Director position, which requires more than one term to do the job well.
- Adry expresses concerns about split positions and tedium involved in running the program.
- Ya-Fang suggests inviting foundation representatives to meetings to discuss funding opportunities for study abroad programs.

Faculty-led international programs and support.

- Rajeeb expresses interest in connecting with others who lead faculty-led international experiences to brainstorm and support each other.

- Rajeeb shares their experience of working closely with the study abroad office to ensure students' safe return during the pandemic.
- Faculty members feel undervalued and unsupported in their role as lead for study abroad programs.