

IES Committee Monthly Meeting

Date: 10.05.24

Time: noon-1 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendance: Carmen Caceda, Ya-Fang Cheng, Jose E. Coll, Tim Cowart, Feier Hou, Dani Lane, Joe Macade, Rajeeb Poudel, Ricardo Pelegrín-Taboada, Sean Roush, Erin Trine

Action Items

- [] Explore ways to provide financial support for faculty-led study abroad program development.
- [] Gather feedback from current international students on their challenges and support needs.
- [] Explore potential foundation funding or scholarships for international students.

Outline

Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program Funding

- Sean inquires about the feasibility of moving forward with a self-funded faculty-led program.
- Provost Jose clarifies that while the university lacks infrastructure to develop faculty-led programs, they can support some costs, particularly faculty travel and potential stays.
- Provost Jose emphasizes the importance of legal counsel and financial resources for such programs.
- Provost Jose encourages Sean to proceed with his program, indicating no objections from the university.

Financial Benefits and Advisor Involvement

- Asks about financial benefits for Western when students study abroad at OSU or U of O.
- Provost Jose explains that financial aid goes directly to the programs, with no benefit to Western.
- Ya-Fang raises concerns about students earning credits and the need for advisors to ensure courses fit their degree plans.
- Provost Jose confirms the importance of students meeting with advisors and plans to include this in a letter to faculty and advisors.

Website Updates and Student Support

- Provost Jose discusses updates to the study abroad webpage to include links and guidance for students.
- Ya-Fang questions the availability of information for advisors to support students.
- Provost Jose mentions the letter will include links to various programs and emphasizes the need for guided conversations between students and advisors.

- Provost Jose plans to send the letter to faculty and the university community on Monday, with updates on future study abroad possibilities.

Faculty Exchange and Partnerships

- Tim inquires about faculty exchange possibilities, particularly with Taiwan.
- Provost Jose explains the need to decipher the Taiwan MOU and understand the resources involved before promoting it to faculty.
- Provost Jose mentions potential partnerships with PSU but decided against it due to their fiscal challenges.
- Provost Jose emphasizes the importance of utilizing existing resources to meet student needs.

International Student Recruitment and Challenges

- Joe provides updates on international student applications, noting challenges with visas and financial information.
- Joe mentions a glitch in the application system that lost some applications but plans to move to a computerized system.
- Joe discusses partnerships with the Beijing International Education Institute and potential two-plus-two programs.
- Joe highlights the diverse backgrounds of new international students and the success of recent orientation activities.

Support for International Students and Associations

- Ya-Fang suggests gathering feedback from current international students to better support them.
- Joe agrees and mentions the need for additional staff to support international students.
- Ya-Fang inquires about the International Student Association and its current status.
- Joe explains the challenges in reviving the association and the potential for involving American students.

Potential Collaborations and Scholarships

- Tim suggests aligning international student recruitment with the Honors Program.
- Joe agrees, noting that many international students have high GPAs and would be good candidates for the Honors Program.
- Tim mentions potential tuition remission scholarships for international students.
- Joe confirms the need for merit-based scholarships and the challenges of securing additional funding.

Exploring Foundation Funding and Future Plans

- Erin suggests checking foundation money for defunct groups to support international students.
- Joe mentions using a portion of foundation money for an international student scholarship and ongoing conversations with the foundation.

- **Ya-Fang supports the idea of applying for competitive funds to support international programs.**
- **Ya-Fang emphasizes the importance of maintaining monthly meetings to continue supporting international students and faculty.**