

Advisory Committee on International Studies
September 29, 2006

In attendance: Marie Alice Arnold, Cori Filson, Deb Hall, Kate Leavitt, Leslie Mechem, Rajesh Nagarajan, Patricia Rubio

Action items:

- Deb Hall will seek advice from CEPP regarding outreach to faculty about the NSE program.

Agenda items:

1. National Student Exchange

Cori Filson introduced to the committee the National Student Exchange Program. The Dean of Faculty Office is bringing forth a proposal to CEPP with the Office of international programs to affiliate with the program. OIP is looking at the program as an extension of the approved programs. The purpose of affiliating with NSE is to open opportunities to students to have diverse experiences through domestic opportunities. This will work well for majors that don't line up well with study abroad. The member institutions of NSE offer diverse experiences through location (urban areas, regional populations), institution type (flagship universities), program offerings (unique lab experiences or courses not offered at Skidmore) and student body (Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Servicing Institutions.) OIP believes it is beneficial that the institutions represented in the program are not similar to Skidmore or peer institutions. OIP expects a small number of participants growing from about 2 to 10. OIP will work with departments to identify programs and institutions that would be good fits with their major programs. Qualifications similar to those of study abroad applicants will be required of NSE exchange students. OIP asked the committee for thoughts and comments.

The committee thought this would have a great impact on students pursuing self-determined majors. It would really open up all sorts of opportunities to them. The committee recommended that OIP work with some departments early on to get an idea of how they may react. They recommended that OIP or the Dean of Faculty get the science chairs together to see their thoughts on the potential opportunities the program would open up.

Deb Hall will bring to CEPP the concerns regarding how faculty may react and seek advice on outreach to faculty.

2. Affiliations guidelines

The committee reviewed the changes in language to the guidelines document. The committee agreed to keep the section mentioning faculty exchanges in the document as there is no other document that captures that possibility.

3. Petition Review

The committee reviewed six petitions. Five were approved. Students were approved with the understanding that they will pursue the home stay options offered in their program of choice. One will need to consult with the major department on whether he can graduate on time given his program selection. (This student was subsequently approved.) The committee also determined that a letter from the student's advisor would be more appropriate than a letter from the chair. OIP will revise the petition process to include the advisor letter instead of the letter from the chair of the department.