

Meeting of the Resources and Planning Committee
Dec. 16, 2005 (12:15-1:15)

In attendance:

Martin Gunderson (chair), Diane Michelfelder, Andrew Latham, Marjorie Merryman, Dan Balik, Vasant Sukhatme, David Wheaton, Kristin Pollack, Sandy Robson, James Heyman, Ron Joslin, Brian Lindeman.

Mike Monahan, Director of the International Center, joined the RPC.

Approval of minutes:

A number of changes and corrections were suggested.

Study Abroad:

Mike Monahan spoke and answered questions on this topic, followed by open discussion. Some highlights: There is a strong upward trend nationally in the number of students interested in studying abroad, especially to such areas as the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. The reason our numbers have not jumped as sharply (according to Monahan) is because we don't promote study abroad at all, and students know that there is a cap. It is very difficult to predict jumps in demand like this year's.

There are a number of suggestions for how to control study away costs. These include:

- More strict academic requirements
- Cap on how many students can go
- Ask students to cover their own travel costs
- Limit the number of countries to which students can travel
- Stop sending students to the most expensive programs
- Encourage students to directly enroll in other universities
- Create a financial incentive for students to attend cheaper programs, or otherwise make them more attractive
- Develop our own faculty-taught programs in otherwise expensive places
- Create more opportunities for study away in January and the summer

There will be informal discussions in January on drafting a proposal on this topic.