

Meeting of the Resources and Planning Committee

Nov. 11, 2005 (12:00 PM – 12:45)

In attendance:

Martin Gunderson (chair), Ron Joslin, Kristin Pollack, Vasant Sukhatme, James Heyman, Tommy Bonner, Barbara Solberg, David Wheaton, Andrew Latham, Marjorie Merryman, Diane Michelfelder.

Approval of Minutes for the Nov. 4 meeting:

Minutes are approved.

Discussion of Study Away:

There was an extended discussion of the costs and benefits of studying away. There was general agreement that communication around study away guidelines/expectations should be improved so that students are aware of the exact policy. Also, it was informally agreed that it should be a better effort to balance study abroad in the spring and in the fall.

Several ideas were discussed which could help to control the budgetary impact associated with Macalester's study away program:

- In addition to paying Macalester tuition, students who go on very expensive programs could cover the difference above tuition costs.
- There could be a cap on the number of students allowed to go abroad (the current system).
- There could be a cap on the number of students allowed to go to particularly expensive programs.
- The college could encourage participation in summer internships in foreign countries including the possibility of assisting with travel costs - which could cost significantly less than university programs.
- There could be more scrutiny of the quality and number of programs offered, so that there is more benefit for the same cost.

There were also requests from committee members for more detailed data about the costs of study abroad.

Discussion of the appropriate number of international students:

Ahmed Samatar, Dean of International Studies, should speak to the RPC both about this topic and about study abroad.

Submitted by Joe Reich