

## Educational Policies and Procedures Committee

Minutes of September 27, 2010

**Present:** Mary Anne Gaffney ( Chair), Bruce Conrad, Chris Dennis, Catherine Schifter, James Curran, Kent McGuire, Michele O'Connor, Peter Jones, Suman Batish, Wendy Kutchner.

**Agenda:** 1) Mary Anne Gaffney: GEEC decision on World Society Wavier for shorter term study abroad.  
2) Michele O'Connor, Chris Dennis, Stephanie Gillin: Leave of Absence Policy  
3) Peter Jones: On line math placement tests

**Minutes:** Mary Anne Gaffney, presented review by Denise Connerty that the consensus has been reached that the “World Society Wavier for shorter term study abroad” should follow 7 step criteria not only for the Ghana program but for all the international programs upon approval by International programs committee.

Leave of Absence Policy: will be discussed in the next meeting because Stephanie Gillin was in the hospital and could not make her self available.

On line math placement tests: Peter Jones explained that the students who are accepted at Temple take Placement tests for Math and English before registering. Presently they come in person at and stay at Temple for 3 days and 2 nights. On 1<sup>st</sup> day they take test on Arithmetic, calculus, Algebra (no calculators allowed). In the writing section for English 4 Topics are given ahead. Grad students mark their tests with special training and then students meet with their advisors for placement for Math classes and English class 701. The program is very intense, very expensive, sometimes more graders are needed instantly (instantly training is sometimes difficult), housing authority needs to know in Dec. that how much housing facility is needed in (it is difficult to predict in December how many students will show up.). Keeping all these variables in mind a new approach, i.e. on-line testing, is one of the options Temple can opt for. Other Universities have adapted to on-line testing e.g. Penn state. On-Line testing can start form March till June (once the student has put a deposit). Mary Anne and Suman had concerns about cheating issues by students while taking test on-line, Kent also showed concern that students may drop the course or major once admitted to the University, Catherine explained that some times students do not perform well in placement test in June because of SAT preparation (gap is too long)). The advantages to the students with on-line testing are that the students can avoid the test anxiety and can take it in their own environment and at their own convenience, the graders will also be well trained and students will also get to meet one on one basis with the advisor and University can save money and resolve housing issues. The honor students may not have to take this test.

Student affairs conducted an experiment over this fall 2010 in which 200 students were selected for on-line testing. 105 students actually took the on-line tests and are being followed through the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and are being compared with matched students who took the traditional tests. On-line results were slightly better for math and worse for English but results were not significantly different. Peter will come back with on-line placement test updates.

Peter and Mary Anne also talked about the time matrix for classes and said that Banner will not allow any out of matrix classes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm