

Faculty Senate Committee for International Programs
Annual Committee Report, AY 2020-2021

Members:

Srimati Mukherjee (Chair)

Contact: smukherj@temple.edu

1. Hiram Aldarondo
2. Cate Almon
3. Eric Borguet
4. David B. Cannata
5. Sherri Hope Culver
6. Abbe Depretis
7. Meixia Ding
8. Vivian Sayuri Falcao (student)
9. Insook Han
10. Van Hellerslia
11. Latanya N. Jenkins
12. Adil Khan
13. Mohammad Kiani
14. Michael McCloskey
15. Bryan P. McCormick
16. Patrick McDonnell
17. Wilbert Roget
18. Elvis Wagner

Daniel W. Berman (ex-officio), Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies

Denise Connerty (ex-officio), former Assistant Vice President of Education Abroad

Martyn J. Miller (ex-officio), Assistant Vice President, Office of International Affairs

The Faculty Senate International Programs Committee met four (4) times this academic year 2020-2021 via Zoom: 10/30/2020, 12/9/2020, 2/24/2021, and 3/31/2021.

Key Points of Discussion (and Action) from Each Meeting:

10/30/2020:

Abbe Depretis was elected Secretary of the committee.

Eric Borguet presented: Predicament of International Students and Scholars (Fall 2020)

Martyn Miller presented: International Students and Scholars at Temple University (Fall 2020)

DS-2019 regulations

These regulations also affect international employees (H1B)

Working with the University Council and the Provost's office

Advocating within the college and schools is a good way to help international students in addition to the Office of the President and Provost

Srimati notes the importance of diversity and representation in international student affairs

International Affairs has begun and continues to work more with the IDEAL office to emphasize the intersectionality of the international student

Vivian's Sayuri Falcao's Impressions as an International Student:

Panicked in the summer because she thought she would need to take a leave of absence.
Unable to go back because of travel ban
Other students she spoke to were scared and confused

At Eric Borguet's urging, Tuttleman Learning Center has started once a week conversation sessions for international students only where they can log in and talk

David Cannata presented: International Studies from Temple University and Intellectual Property:

Offer a flash drive to promote international campuses
On this flash drive, focus on the achievements of international student work
Latanya Jenkins suggested speaking to the library Scholar Share team
<https://library.temple.edu/categories/tuscholarshare>

Sherri Hope Culver noted the need to promote the financial cost and the academic possibilities for students who worry they cannot afford it or that they will not progress towards their degree if they study abroad

12/9/2020:

Martyn Miller shared screen data on international student registration
Prediction that international students will return because of election and vaccines
Might be as high as 12%-14% increase in international student return

2/24/21:

Presentation from Denise Connerty, former Assistant Vice President of Education Abroad, on the Status of Study Abroad:

Student numbers abroad: Rome 70; South Korea 4; Japan 35

Spain program was canceled

An assessment tool was prepared to see whether students could study in other locations

After review, these three locations were the only ones that made sense due to a variety of reasons (e.g., countries allowing students entry, time of quarantine, number of Covid cases in the country)

Rome- all classes in person; cannot leave Italy; in some cases, cannot leave area of Rome; must adhere to social distancing and Covid guidelines; regular Covid testing throughout the semester; contact tracing; working closely with English-speaking physician; students were required to be Covid tested 48 hours prior to flight to Rome; students on "Covid-Free flights" had to quarantine for 1 week, all others quarantined for 2 weeks

Tokyo-40% of classes in person; must adhere to social distancing and Covid guidelines; reinforcing 4 pillars of public health; no public transportation until after quarantine was complete; contact tracing; TUJ has three apps; Japan asked students to sign a pledge with deportation as a threat for breaking the pledge; Covid tests were difficult for students to get; rules changed a lot for students and Japan decided not to let study abroad students into the country after January 4 forcing students to rush and change tickets

Some students have tested positive for Covid but very few

Students are having overall great experiences

Summer decisions have not been made

The language program in Germany will run online

Oviedo, Spain program is hopeful

Japan program is hopeful

Question from Hiram Aldarondo: Is there a search for Denise's position? Answer: Yes, and there are two strong finalists one of whom will be hired soon

Martyn Miller Presentation on International Affairs:

Undergraduate Total from 2413 (2020) to 2059 (2021)
Graduate Total from 1809 (2020) to 1699 (2021)

Daniel Berman offered some reasons why some students do not complete applications such as lack of standardized test scores this year, self-reporting transcripts and grades

Eric Borguet noted the changes in the English language proficiency requirements for students

Martyn Miller Presentation continued:

President Biden has proposed immigration reform that is favorable to international students. As these types of positive legislation are proposed, international students become more interested in studying in the U.S.

International partnership is continuing despite shutdowns:

New partnerships in India, Greece, and Israel

Special thanks to Hiram Aldarondo for a new Tripartite Program with Greece and Israel

3/31/2021:

Lead Facilitator: Elvis Wagner; Daniel Berman, Martyn Miller: Discussion of Duolingo for Admission for International Students instead of TOEFL, IELTS, or Other More Rigorous Measures:

During the pandemic Duolingo became a somewhat necessary measure of acceptance for international students.

It was difficult for students to get a TOEFL or IELTS score during the pandemic, so Temple accepted the Duolingo

Elvis Wagner summarized his study of Duolingo for admissions, which argues that it is a weak source for understanding students' English proficiency.

Temple is accepting for 2021 admissions, but the university will reexamine after that

The graduate school is hesitant to continue to admit students based on the Duolingo test

Daniel Berman noted his support for Elvis and that despite the need for competitiveness in admissions, the effectiveness of the test is really important

Hiram Aldarondo asked if we know the percentage of universities using Duolingo and if they were using Duolingo before the pandemic?

Elvis Wagner said a large number (vast majority) of universities are using Duolingo now. Prior to the pandemic very few universities used the program (handful)

Hiram Aldarondo asked if there is a plan in place by the university if students arrive without the necessary English proficiency?

Elvis Wagner noted that they discussed a potential study on the subject of success in college and a multi-year study, but one semester's data is not necessarily indicative of a problem in English proficiency

Martyn Miller noted that there has been a promise to look at mid-year reports and perhaps there should be additional language support for those admitted via Duolingo

Adil Khan asked what is the weakness of Duolingo?

Elvis Wagner noted that there is no reading/response component; the tasks require no interaction
Identifying real or made-up English words is a major task

No writing is required

Cheating is very easy on this at-home test

The tasks on the other tests are much more difficult to cheat on and require a real language ability

Adil followed up asking if there is an interview?

Elvis Wagner responded that yes Duolingo has a short, recorded interview. However, it is not graded or scored so it is not practical

Patrick McDonnell asked what type of services or support "tutoring" was available for students identified as ESL that may need support?

Eric Borguet noted that there is a speak test for TAs in Pennsylvania and there is a course if students do not pass that test. A similar course could be offered to those students who are having trouble in the health professions

Martyn Miller said there is the Writing Center, the Center for American Language and Culture in ESP and they could develop the course suggested by Eric if it is desired

Sherri Hope Culver asked whether TOEFL and IELTS have an acceptable at home test? And is there a discussion happening among universities to create a consensus regarding assessment?

Elvis Wagner said TOEFL has an at-home option and they are about the same as the Center option
There is no consensus among universities

Meixia Ding asked if students fail TOEFL and then take Duolingo?

Elvis Wagner said no studies are published or data have been collected that would indicate that this is what is happening
A university does not know if students have taken multiple tests unless students send their scores from those tests

Abbe Depretis asked if Duolingo is a much less expensive program?

Elvis Wagner said yes, Duolingo is \$50 and TOEFL is \$200

Abbe followed up to ask if we could supplement the cost for applicants

Martyn Miller noted that would be cost prohibitive for the over 3000 applications to supplement that cost

Dean Emilia Zankina- Dean of Temple Rome graciously joined the IP Committee:

Students are taking courses in person with 4 weeks left
There were 2 weeks of online classes when Rome was in red zone, but Rome is back in orange zone
Situation is fluid and changing
Testing was initially monopolized by the Italian government
Now the campus is able to test students weekly and the tests are must less costly
Summer classes are cancelled; Fall should be in person
Times of crisis have led to creativity
Online internships have been very successful--students in Philadelphia are doing internships with companies in Rome
Doubled admitted students for the Temple First program (10-15)

Mohammad Kiani asked about the status of the Engineering Program.

Dean Zankina noted:

70 students total, 3-4 are engineering, but generally there are many Engineering students
Many of the Rome students come from Fox
Less students are coming from Art and more from Communication, Biology

Open to having students from many different disciplines

Mohammad Kiani noted that there should be more science-based gen ed courses in Rome

Hiram Aldarondo asked about restrictions for students in Rome

Dean Zankina responded:

Students currently cannot travel but at different times in the semester they were able to travel to different areas

At first, they could not travel outside of Italy

Once they are done with the program, they are able to travel in Europe but that is at their own risk

Abbe Depretis asked about housing

Dean Zankina responded:

Students are in Covid-safe housing

They will stay there for the fall

Sherri Hope Culver asked about vision for the future

Dean Zankina wants to expand first year program

Collaborate beyond just having classes in person--live streaming events, internationalizing the curriculum, bringing faculty abroad

Wants to collaborate between the campuses more

Internationalize the campuses further

Respectfully submitted by Srimati Mukherjee with special thanks to Abbe Depretis for Minutes.