

International Studies Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee (ISCAPC)

Report for 2005-2006

March 27, 2006

As stated in the ISCAPC's bylaws, this is an appointed committee which advises the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences "on matters pertaining to international education" and which "ensure[s] faculty oversight and development of the international curriculum," including the International Relations major, International Studies majors (African, East Asian, European, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Russian and Post-Soviet Studies), and W&M study abroad programs.

ISCAPC members for the 2005-2006 academic year include:

- Arts & Sciences: T.J. Cheng (Government); John Eisele (MLL); David Feldman (Economics); Tom Heacox (English); Laurie Koloski (History; ISCAPC chair)
- From the Schools: Brian Blouet (School of Education). All schools are invited to send members to the ISCAPC, but in 2005-2006 only Education elected to do so.
- Student members: Allison Biggs, Cosmo Fujiyama (fall), Scott Kuhagen
- Ex officio members: Sue Peterson (Dean for Educational Policy), Berhanu Abegaz (Economics; Reves Faculty Fellow), Guru Ghosh (Director of Global Education, Reves), Gail McEacheron (Education; Acting Dean for International Affairs, Reves), Tamara Sonn (Religious Studies; Reves Faculty Fellow)

Minutes for the ISCAPC's 2005-2006 meetings are posted to the Dean of Arts and Sciences webpage, and may be accessed at http://www.wm.edu/fas/faculty/iscapc_minutes.php.

International studies at W&M and abroad

The IR and IS programs comprise a substantial number of majors: as of March 21, 2006, there were 184 IR majors and 76 IS majors (of those, 2 are in African Studies, 23 in East Asian Studies, 13 in European Studies, 7 in Latin American Studies, 14 in Middle Eastern Studies, and 17 in Russian and Post-Soviet Studies). W&M conferred 84 IR and 33 IS degrees in May/August 2005.

W&M also sends an impressive and growing number of students overseas each year. In 2005/2006 (including summer 2005 programs), 617 W&M students studied abroad, 298 of those for a semester or full academic year. This number is up from a total of 331 students during the 2000-2001 academic year.

W&M has ten summer abroad programs of its own, which include Beijing, China; Cadiz, Spain; Cambridge, England; Florence, Italy; Goa, India; Montpellier, France; Morelia, Mexico; Prague, Czech Republic; Siracusa, Italy; St. Petersburg, Russia. For the summer of 2006, 285 students will participate in these programs. W&M also sponsors a number of tuition exchange and assisted enrollment programs with universities overseas, but the ISCAPC has no oversight of such programs.

The ISCAPC approves all changes made to the IR/IS majors at W&M and also oversees curricular matters related to W&M's summer programs abroad. This oversight consists of approving the initial programs, selecting program directors, approving courses taught by W&M faculty, and—beginning this summer—periodically evaluating these programs. The committee also approves the creation of "assisted" semester-long programs like the one in Seville (see below), though it does not directly approve courses or directors, since these are provided on-site.

Oversight of IR/IS programs at W&M

Changes to the IR and IS majors:

Most of the committee's work in this realm involves approving changes to the undergraduate majors in IR and IS. There have been no major revisions to these programs this year. The committee recently approved minor changes to the programs in International Relations, European Studies, African Studies, East Asian Studies, and Latin American Studies.

From "International Studies" to "Global Studies":

The committee also recently approved a proposal submitted by the chairs of the six IS CFACs to change the name of the International Studies program to Global Studies. Until now, International Studies has served both as the name of the undergraduate major in which students choose one of six area studies concentrations and as the umbrella term for IR and IS together (it is also used sometimes to refer to all internationally-related courses and programs at the College). Though there was a good deal of discussion in the CFACs and within the ISCAPC over the advantages and disadvantages of Global Studies and other possible designations, a majority of CFAC and ISCAPC members approved the shift. We have now forwarded the proposal to the EPC for approval.

Review of CFAC reports and meeting with CFAC chairs:

Traditionally the ISCAPC requests CFAC reports at the end of the academic year and meets with CFAC chairs at its final meeting. This year, the meeting is scheduled for April 27.

Oversight of W&M study abroad programs

Approval of program directors and teaching faculty

Program directors for the following 2006 summer programs were approved at the October 27 meeting: Cadiz: Carla Buck (MLL); Florence: Michael DiPaola (Education); Siracusa: John Donahue (Classical Studies); Morelia: Jennifer Bickham-Mendez (Sociology); Montpellier: Michael Leruth (MLL); Beijing: Yanfang Tang (MLL).

Other program directors were approved by the ISCAPC at its final meeting last year (May 2, 2005): Goa: Dinesh Sohoni (Sociology); Cambridge: Thomas Heacox (English); St. Petersburg: Fred Corney (History); Prague: Berhanu Abegaz (Economics), Laurie Koloski (History).

In addition, Carter Hailey (English) and Laurie Wolf (Theater, Speech, and Dance) were approved as teaching faculty for the Cambridge program.

In November, three new programs were approved, which in two cases involved approving program directors as well. Please see below.

Approval of new programs

1. Seville, Spain: In November, the committee approved an "assisted" semester-long program in Seville, which began this spring. Students take courses in Spanish and English at Universidad de Pablo de Olavide, and MundoLengua, a Seville-based company, coordinates on-site issues like housing, administrative issues, a service-learning course in which all students participate, and orientation. A W&M professor (Carla Buck this year) accompanies the students for the first two weeks of the program, to help them become familiar with the city and program and to offer guidance on the research/service projects the students will undertake.

2. Holetown, Barbados: Also in November, the committee approved a summer

anthropology field school in Barbados, which will begin this summer. This builds on existing historical archaeology and ethnohistory field school courses in the anthropology department, but offers students the opportunity to conduct field work in the Caribbean for the first time. Fred Smith (Anthropology) was approved as the field school's director.

3. St Andrews, Scotland: At the same meeting, the committee approved a "freshman experience in Scotland" program, set to begin this summer. W&M currently has an assisted enrollment semester-long program with St. Andrews, but this will extend the relationship to include a summer program. Though only incoming freshman will participate this summer, the program does not fulfill the requirement for a freshman seminar, which must be taken on campus during the academic year. Rip McAdams and Victoria Foster, both of Education, will co-direct the program in 2006, and have designed a course that compares the high school-to-college transition in Scotland and the US.

Review of student evaluations from W&M summer programs

Committee members reviewed program evaluations from the ten W&M summer programs (these are not course evaluations, but overall evaluations of the program, director, host institution and staff, living conditions, etc.). We alerted the Reves Center to small problems with some programs, but noted no serious problems.

Review of program directors' reports

The committee is currently reviewing program directors' reports from the 2005 summer programs.

In the pipeline...

The committee is currently considering a proposal for an assisted semester-long program in La Plata, Argentina, that would be based at the National University of La Plata and offer students the opportunity to hold internships with the Provincial Commission for Memory.

Subcommittees on assessment and guidelines

For much of the academic year, two sub-committees have been working to define guidelines for establishing and evaluating study abroad programs.

Program guidelines sub-committee:

The ISCAPC approved the sub-committee's document "Guidelines for Governance of William and Mary Study Abroad Programs" on January 26, 2006. This document clarifies the process of creating a new program and the committee's criteria for the sustainability and site specificity of such programs. It also makes clear that no department, program, or CFAC has "ownership" of such programs but that in some cases, departmental/program/CFAC "sponsorship" may be warranted. A copy of the guidelines is available at http://www.wm.edu/fas/faculty/iscapc/documents/Study_Abroad_Guidelines.pdf.

Program assessment sub-committee:

The sub-committee's working report on assessment has been on the full committee's table for several months, but we've yet to have the time to fully discuss it. These documents, which concern both student evaluations of the W&M summer programs and on-site reviews, will have top priority at our next meeting, and we expect to pass final versions of the student program evaluation form and the on-site guidelines by the end of the semester. The first site visits will take place this summer, and involve reviews of the programs in Prague and Sicily,

which completed their “probationary” period in 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Koloski
Chair, ISCAPC