Policy Charge

International Oversight Committee

Policy Statement

The International Oversight Committee (IOC) is a university-wide standing committee appointed by the President. The IOC does not report to the Academic Senate of The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas).

The IOC is dedicated to preserving academic freedom and the University’s robust research agenda, while remaining committed to the safety and security of UT Dallas students, faculty, and staff during international travel as well as to the safety and security of UT Dallas international students in the United States. Committee members include representatives from across campus, including faculty members, administrative leaders, and international travel and risk specialists. The committee meets each semester as required to review and discuss policies.

The Committee is charged with evaluating any UT Dallas activity or travel to high risk regions; coordinating University emergency responses to assist both UT Dallas travelers abroad and UT Dallas international students in the United States; and developing guidelines and formulating policies to maintain the well-being and safety of UT Dallas travelers to international regions.

1. Evaluation of UT Dallas programs and travel in high risk countries or regions: High risk countries or regions are those in which warnings or alerts have been issued by the U.S. Department of State, or where significant health or safety concerns are present. The Committee will evaluate proposed programs and travel requests to high-risk regions according to well-defined criteria, to determine adequate safeguards are in place before an approval to travel is granted. Such criteria may include, but will not be limited to, the following: the nature and scope of the travel alert / warning and/or health or safety concern; the experience of the faculty program leaders and in-country staff; the strength of the in-country infrastructure; the specific steps taken to inform all travelers about known risks.; the specific steps taken to mitigate known risks and their likely effectiveness; the academic or university related purpose for which the authorization is being sought; whether the opportunity is for undergraduate, graduate or professional training; the education, research, or professional training importance of the opportunity in relation to the student's academic program; the political and physical conditions in-country; travel conditions and the ability to evacuate all travelers, if necessary; and the manageability of legal risk to the institution.
2. Coordination of the University’s emergency response: The Committee will develop and initiate a coordinated UT Dallas emergency response strategy by taking into account specific issues, including but not limited to: identifying the context of emergency or crisis; assessing potential risk to the faculty, staff, or students involved including the nature, duration and severity of any risk; and identifying appropriate resources and activation of appropriate emergency response plans to assist in addressing a situation.

3. Development of guidelines and formulation of policies: The IOC will develop guidelines and formulate policies on international travel pertaining to: oversight, prevention-mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

The Committee will be composed of the following eight voting members appointed by the President: three faculty members, the Dean of Students, an Associate Provost, the Assistant Vice President for Procurement, the Vice President for Communications, and the Vice President for Research or their designees. The Committee will be chaired by a representative from the International Center Risk and Safety Office. The term of office for Committee members will be for two years, and the President can reappoint members for additional terms. The Assistant Vice President for International Programs will serve as the Responsible University Official for this committee.

Policy History

• Issued: 2014-11-12

Policy Links

• Permalink for this policy: http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1092
• Link to PDF version: http://policy.utdallas.edu/pdf/utdpp1092
• Link to printable version: http://policy.utdallas.edu/print/utdpp1092