International Student Advisory Board  
The Reves Center for International Studies

Date: 25 March 2012  
Time: 6pm-7:30 pm  
Location: Reves Room

In attendance:  
Lopamudra Das  
Chang Liu (Chelsea)  
Ki Byung Chae  
Adrian Vodislav  
Yuying Wang  
Sung Che Jo  
Eva Wong  
Wendy Couch (took notes)  
Steve Sechrist  
Steve Hanson

1. ISSP Reports to ISAB  
   a. Welcome new ISAB member: Yuying Wang, J.D. program  
   b. Virtual Conversation Partner Program - Jingzhu Zhang (former ISAB member) launched a conversation partner program using Skype for newly admitted international students (will pair W&M students with newly admitted students). This is not a Reves program but ISSP is providing support.  
   c. Personal announcements – Eva will be on maternity leave for Fall. Wendy will also be leaving next year due to graduation. Steve will look for a part-time staff to take over some of Eva’s responsibilities.  
   d. Individual Updates: none

2. ISAB Planning  
   a. End-of the semester reception as an ISAB co-sponsored event. The role of the members will be to create visibility and outreach to the students.  
   b. ISAB sponsored event – Board Games Night in the Reves Room April 6th from 3-9 pm; this event will be entirely sponsored by ISAB with support from ISSP. Board members discussed logistics for the event.

3. Recruitment for next year  
   a. Some members will be graduating but all other will be returning to serve on the board.  
   b. Board members discussed:  
      i. Application process & timeframe. Seung Che, Lopa and Yuying will volunteer to be on the committee for applications.  
      ii. Board decided not to impose term limits so that board members have the opportunity to grow together since ISAB is relatively new.  
      iii. There will be turnover due to shorter programs (e.g., MBA, LLM).  
      iv. Chelsea – Concern about high turnover rate of undergraduates who will be
graduating at the same time.

v. Plan to recruit earlier next Spring, so that new members would be able to attend the last meeting to ease the transition.

c. Fall Leadership Training – Ropes course was fun but expensive. Board decided to go with at leadership training workshop led by the Office of Student Activities.

4. Visit by Dr. Steve Hanson, Vice Provost for International Affairs & Steve Sechrist, Director of International Students, Scholars & Programs (6pm)

a. Presentation from members on the JMU International Student Leadership Conference
   i. Chelsea – documentary was very powerful; was shocked by movie; this year was really well organized and the theme was well-connected; there was so much strength in the speaker; workshops were helpful and the formation of groups’ process was critical.
   ii. Lopa – theme was lead the change; travel; documentary; Nobel Peace Prize \rightarrow Leymah Gbowee; H1-B visa application procedures; personality and leadership style assessment.
   iii. Ki – thought that more students needed to attend the conference; felt that he was welcomed and apart of something important; sometimes feels small as an international student; realized that many international students here may have had similar experiences; finding other students and sharing their experiences is important; need to focus on advocacy for international students.
   iv. Wendy - hope and anger; motivation for change.
   v. Eva - ODU also has an ISAB and will look into collaborating with similar groups in the future

b. Steve Sechrist, Director of ISPP
   i. Recently secured a paid internship for international undergraduate students with National Center for State Courts.
   ii. Two international scholarships \rightarrow will announce the recipient at the end of the year reception (still accepting applications for Jack Wolfe scholarship – undergrad)
   iii. Follow up to budget presentation in November: State support for students has dropped dramatically for Reves but we have doubled in international population.
   i. Solutions for dealing with the budget cut and sustaining the work we do include: working with development office, introduction of international student fees (have done a lot of research and benchmarking of other similar universities) and an Orientation fee.
   ii. Orientation of $110 (one-time charge); off-set meals, transportation, etc.; International Student Services Fee ($35 per semester) to help fund programming, staffing, software (e.g., Tax and immigration compliance software for students), hiring additional GA, etc. The $35 per semester has to be stretched to cover many
operational costs for ISSP.

iii. Looked at these figures against educational cost at W&M; for a freshman, law or business student will make up .35% of cost of education/ .15% cost of education/graduate arts, education, etc.

iv. Steve Hanson – Obviously ISSP has been agonizing over this but is confident that we will be able to give much better service for all students and wanted to get input from board.

v. Some board members were disappointed that the fees will go into effect but understood the importance of generating additional revenue for ISSP so that the needs of international students are met. Members also provided suggestions on how to disseminate the information to students and ways to increase revenue for ISSP.

c. Steve Hanson – Vice Provost of International Affairs
   i. Gave a brief background of his academic and career path.
   ii. Dr. Hanson was Vice-Provost for Global Affairs at UW-Seattle and came to W&M in 2011. W&M needed a single person to be in charge of different aspects internationalization around the university.
   iii. Reves Center has three main divisions: ISSP, Global Education Office (study abroad, exchange, etc.) and Global Engagement (to raise consciousness across the university).

5. Board set goals and agenda topics for the next meeting (April 8, 5pm).

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.