International Student Advisory Board
The Reves Center for International Studies

Date: 21 October 2012

Time: 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm

Location: Reves Room

In attendance:
Ki Byung Chae
Sung Che Jo
Oranich (Gift) Kulapatrapa
Qingmei (Melody) Li
Chang (Chelsea) Liu
Adrian Vodislav
Yuying Wang
Bronwen Watts

1. ISSP Reports to ISAB
   a. International Student Outreach Initiative—this is an outreach to get feedback from international students. The goal is to determine how things are going, how they perceive the Reves Center, and ways the Reves Center or other offices on campus can provide appropriate support. Each member of the ISSP office will be randomly assigned 4 students, and will get together with the students, in an informal setting, before December 1. ISAB members were asked to reach out to 1 or 2 students who would also be randomly assigned (but either the same year or program as ISAB members), and they agreed to this.
   b. Trip RSVPs and cancellations—Last-minute trip cancellations and no-shows continue to occur frequently. Steve Sechrist recently sent an e-mail to the international students, and we will have to wait to see if it has any impact. ISAB members were asked their thoughts about why this might be occurring and if they have any thoughts on how to address it. Members agreed the events are good and students seem to enjoy them. Some thought the e-mail from Steve would be sufficient to help cut down on no-shows, others mentioned e-mail reminders closer to the event should be sent, and the idea of a copay (refundable if student attends) was also brought up. Members agreed having some consequence for not attending is appropriate and would help.
   c. ISAB bulletin board—There is a bulletin board in the outside stairwell coming up into the Reves Center; half of it features the ISAB members and the other half features the study abroad peer advisors.

2. ISAB Updates and Planning
   a. Check in on student organizations
      i. Things with the undergraduate Chinese Student Association are going great. There is no budget, but there are dues to compensate
for that. A new freshmen welcome lunch and upperclass chatting took place to help connect freshmen with upperclass members. Students could ask about campus life in their native language. There have been other meetings and events since then. They also held a Harvest Moon Festival with the graduate Chinese Students group, and it was fairly successful. The group will also be going to Virginia Beach to get off campus, relax, and have fun.

ii. Ki Chae and Auggie Kang are working with the diversity committee to create an international student organization at the School of Education. However, there are currently not many international students at the SoE, so they are uncertain if there is a need for this club at the time. It is likely it will be needed in the future, so they may start building it now and getting it started.

b. Goals for next this semester/year—Members discussed their role of being a connection/bridge between international students and the Reves Center. Determine the best way to do this is important; soliciting student feedback from the outreach initiative can help determine this. Members also discussed sending e-mails out to their respective programs introducing ISAB and themselves to explain their role and make themselves more visible to the international student population.

c. ISAB recruitment for next semester—Sung Che will graduate in January, so he will no longer be on the board. A replacement will need to be found for his position. Melody will be in Washington, DC next semester, but wishes to remain on the board. Four members will graduate in January, so members decided they would like to add one undergraduate and one graduate student next semester to work with the current group and aid in the transition once more than half the board leaves. The members like the current composition of the board, so that should not change.

d. End of semester reception—we will try to have President Reveley attend reception. ISAB members will have nametags and will be introduced and we will let attendees know the event is co-sponsored by ISAB.

e. Member updates

i. Chelsea attended recent ISSS panel. Lots of people came, and common concerns were academic, stress, difficulty in meeting American friends, homesickness, in general not adjusted to life here. Likes the ISSS idea to show Reves is supporting the students; Reves seems to be doing more now than when she was a freshman. The workshop seemed to be helpful, Carina was good, but the space it was held in was too small. It shouldn’t be in the Counseling Center because in many countries that is seen as a stigma. People who go to counseling are considered to have serious psychological problems. The counseling service here seems great, but we should move the workshop out of the Counseling Center.

ii. Ki—goes to Korean church with about 20-25 other students, and they have lunch together. Every Saturday from 5-7 pm they have
service and dinner together. The numbers have increased a lot (only 5-7 students last year). It’s good for Reves to have that contact information to give to students; Reves could find clubs or religious organizations and have that resource to introduce students to them for fellowship.

3. Summarization and Future Goals
   a. At the next meeting we will discuss the information learned in the outreach initiative interviews with students and talk about goals for next semester. The next meeting will be Sun, Nov 18th.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.