International Student Advisory Board  
The Reves Center for International Studies

Date: March 17, 2013  
Time: 5:15pm-6:30 pm  
Location: Reves Room

In attendance:  
Shweta Kulshrestha  
Ji Hoon Lee  
Angel Zhang  
Yuying Wang  
Ki Byung Chae  
Gift Oranich Kulapatrapa  
Eva Wong

1. ISSP Reports to ISAB
   i. Career Advising for Intl. students  
      - Email sent out about work options for intl. students. The emails will be sent out every semester.  
      - ISSP staff met with the Law Career Center to discuss ways to support international students (LLM & JD).  
      - ISSP has plans to bring the different Career Centers together (Law, Cohen Career Ctr., & Business Schools).  
      - ISSP will be introducing optional CPT workshops.  
      - Based on students’ interests in connecting with their peers, ISSP will work on creating an alumni database.
   ii. Financial Assistance for medical expenses  
      - ISSP is working with the donors and the Office of Development to revise the terms of the Jack Wolf Scholarship to be needs based.  
      - The Office of Students Affairs has an Emergency Loan Program that provides students with 30 days interest free loan.

2. ISAB Updates
   i. Member updates  
      - Yuying: The law school will host a symposium on post-conflict countries on March 29.
   iii. Member recruitment for Fall 2013  
      - We will have five ISAB members graduating this semester (Chelsea, Adrian, Yuying, Gift and Ki). ISSP will recruit new representatives from the School of Education and Law School. Yuying and Ki will help recruit representatives from their respective schools.  
      - We have enough representatives from the other levels (e.g., undergraduate, MBA, Arts & Sciences).  
      - All non-graduating members will be returning next year.
   iv. Analysis of Fall 2012 Outreach Interviews & solutions for challenges  
      - Overall, analysis of the interviews showed that the students had positive perceptions of Reves. Descriptions of Reves include “social center”, “friendly”, “helpful”, “receptive”, “does a lot”, etc.
- Initial transition was difficult but all the students seemed to have transitioned well to W&M.
- Board members provided solutions to the common challenges expressed by the interviewees:
  - **Transportation**
    - Provide a more detailed bus map. The current WATA bus brochure is difficult to read and the times are often not accurate.
    - Provide a public forum for students to post transportation requests/offers, carpooling, etc. There are many students travelling to DC, Richmond and the Hampton Roads and carpooling resources would be helpful.
    - Students can post their requests/offers on the post-it listserv, however, some board members expressed that the listserv is not very user friendly. The current format of having to click on an attachment to see a posting is cumbersome. ISSP will work on improving the listserv and also publicizing its utility to the students.
    - Using facebook to share information on housing and transportation.
  - **Off-campus Housing**
    - The challenge of finding suitable off-campus housing is tied closely to the transportation challenges faced by students. Students who don’t have cars have to find off-campus housing that is on the bus line. However, the public busses are not convenient (e.g., a route can take 15 minutes one way and 45 minutes the other way) or reliable.
    - Board members suggested publicizing the annual W&M Off-Campus Housing Fair and the WM Off-campus website.
    - Creating discussion forums/group chats for incoming and current students.
  - **Academic Support**
    - Undergraduate board members expressed that the academic support for international students is improving. The Office of Academic Advising recently conducted focus groups.
    - There are not many international students in the SOE; therefore, faculty and staff may not understand the needs of international students. This leads to some frustration amongst the international students. However, faculty does try to create an inclusive environment in the classrooms.
    - MBA board members felt that their professors are very helpful and are willing to provide assistance to international students. They also create an inclusive environment for all the students. The program also offers tutoring for international student.
    - In the Law School, there are TAs for 1st year students. There are no TAs for the 2nd and 3rd year students. Students have to seek out individual help from their professors which can be difficult for international students.
  - **Social Life**
    - Since there are small numbers of intl. students in the SOE, some international students feel excluded during classroom discussions and group work. Domestic students might be unintentionally excluding international students. The situation might improve if there is an increased awareness of the diversity international students brings to the campus.
    - In the MBA program, there can be a tendency to stick with national groups. However, they often work in teams and therefore, there is opportunity to interact with domestic students and international students from various countries. On the other hand,
students who do not have a very strong command of English find it hard to actively participate in group work.

- In the Law school, it is very rare to work in groups. Therefore, the opportunity to socialize is less.
- Undergraduate students have many opportunities to meet students from various backgrounds through freshmen halls, fraternity and sororities (including academic ones), student organizations, etc.

• Career Advising & Support
  - We did not spend a lot of time on this issue for we had already discussed this topic in the previous meeting.

3. Summarization and Future Goals
   i. Set goals and agenda topics for the next meeting
      - Members who attended the Intl. Leadership Conference will share their experience.
   ii. Future meeting:
      - Sunday, April 21 at 5:15pm
      - Board members talked about the possibility of changing next year’s meeting time. However, it looks like meeting on Sundays will work best for most members.