International Student Advisory Board  
The Reves Center for International Studies

Date: 20 February 2013  
Time: 5:15pm-6:50 pm  
Location: Reves Room

In attendance:  
Lopa Das  
Chelsea Liu  
Shweta Kulshrestha  
Ji Hoon Lee  
Angel Zhang  
Yuying Wang  
Eva Wong

1. Welcome & Introductions  
i. New members to ISAB: Shweta Kulshrestha (MBA), Ji Hoon Lee (Undergraduate) and  
   Angel Zhang (Undergraduate).

2. ISSP Reports to ISAB  
i. ISSP held the Spring 2013 orientation on January 12. There were 14 new admits (7 graduate,  
   7 undergraduates. Countries represented included: Singapore, Austria, China, Netherlands,  
   Philippines, Japan and Australia).

ii. ISSP is in the process of purchasing immigration software (functions include e-alerts, self-  
    service options for students, batch SEVIS registration, etc.).

iii. ISSP will be reworking the graduate orientation. A draft of the schedule will be shared in the  
    next ISAB meeting and members will be asked to provide feedback.

iv. ISSP is working on organizing airport pick-up for incoming undergraduates beginning Fall  
    2013. Airport pick-ups will not be offered for graduate students at this time for graduate  
    students arrival dates are very spread out and they usually have transportation support  
    from their departments or peers.

v. ISSP is in the process of analyzing the outreach interviews done in Fall 2012. These  
    interviews provide ISSP staff and ISAB members opportunities to reach out to international  
    students and learn more about their experiences.

3. ISAB Updates  
i. Member updates  
   - Chelsea: CUSA has launched a Chinese Language Partnership Program.
   - Shweta: MBA has a similar program for its students. There were discussions on the  
     possibility of collaborations between CUSA and the MBA program.
   - Yuying: The International Law Society will be hosting a symposium regarding law and post-  
     conflict countries.

ii. ISSP will continue to do outreach interviews this semester. All the board members present  
    at the meeting indicated that they would like to take part in the project.

iii. The International Student Leadership Conference, hosted by James Madison University, will  
    be held on March 22-23. Return on March 24.
- Reves will send interested ISAB members to the conference. This includes covering the registration fee (S55/student), and providing transportation and lodging.
- The registration deadline is March 1 and board members were asked to inform Eva of their interest by Fri, Feb 22. 
  [http://www.jmu.edu/international/islc/](http://www.jmu.edu/international/islc/)
- Azmeh (GA) will be leading the group.
- Lopa and Chelsea shared their experiences of attending the conference and encouraged current members to attend this year.

iv. Feedback on how to educate students on consequences of “Unauthorized Employment”
- Most board members were not aware of the seriousness of engaging in unauthorized employment. Engaging in unauthorized employment may result in the termination of the student’s SEVIS record and the student will be required to leave the U.S. In addition, the student’s future employment eligibility and academic program may also be impacted.
- Board members felt that the consequences should be reinforced via:
  
  - Workshops (although it is difficult for graduate students to find time to attend workshops). Making the workshop mandatory could be an option.
  - Emails – Although students received a lot of emails, board members felt that emails are still a good way to relay information to students. It might be helpful to dedicate one email to the subject.
  - Facebook postings

- Eva asked if members felt that faculty and staff were aware that international students needed to secure work authorization before engaging in off-campus work.
  
  - Ji Hoon – Participated in the Career Center’s Wall St. Program and he felt that the organizers knew the basics.
  - Chelsea – Staff are becoming more aware but they do now know the specifics of course. Some administrators are often discouraging about job prospects for international students. It would be nice to know ahead of time those companies who are willing to sponsor internationals students at the Career Fairs.
  - Shweta – MBA staff are quite familiar with the process. Suggested website to look for companies that have sponsored H1B visas.
  - Ji Hoon – Attended the “International Students and the Job Search” event and felt that it was very helpful to meet peers who have successfully found jobs.
  - Yuying – The website does not have a list of law firm.
  - Board members asked if we had an alumni database of international students. Reves is working with the Alumni Association to develop a comprehensive database.
  - Chelsea – CUSA has established their own alumni list.
  - Ji Hoon – Suggested appointing students as “agents” to keep in touch with specific groups (e.g., by majors, etc.).
  - Angel – It is difficult to connect with international alumni.
  - Facebook and LinkedIn are good tools for networking and reaching alumni.

v. Revisiting mission and future direction of ISAB: Best use of board’s time
- Eva asked board to think about the future direction of ISAB. She would like the board to take a vote during the next meeting to decide whether the mission of ISAB should be changed.

vi. Other
Yuying – Is there financial assistance for medical expenses?
Angel – BBA students have to pay additional fees which can be a burden on international students.

4. Summarization and Future Goals
   i. Future meetings:
      Sunday, March 17 at 5:15pm
      Sunday, April 21 at 5:15pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.