International Student Advisory Board  
The Reves Center for International Studies

**Date:** October 20, 2013  
**Time:** 2-4pm  
**Location:** Reves Room

**In attendance**  
Lopamudra Das  
Shweta Kulshrestha  
Ji Hoon Lee  
Melody Qingmei Li  
Angel Junnan Zhang  
Eva Wong

1. **Welcome and introductions**  
   New member from VIMS – Adela Roa-Voran

2. **ISSP Reports to ISAB**  
   a. Impact of federal government shutdown on international community  
      - No huge impact on international community. The impact included: students and scholars not being able to apply for SSN; cancellation of DC trip; delay in completing new hire paperwork (I-9s).  
      - Fee based services (e.g., SEVIS, OPT application, visa applications, etc.) were not impacted.  
   b. Presentation on ISAB at the Virginia Intl. Educators Conference (VCU)  
      - Debi DeBacco (W&M Study Abroad Student Advisory Board), Aey Wongtrirat (ODU ISAB) and Eva presented on “Developing Successful Student Advisory Boards.”  
      - ODU’s ISAB was established in 2009 and have over 20 members divided into subcommittees. They have about 1500 intl. students.  
      - They have been able to grow their reputation over the years and now departments, staff and faculty are approaching them for suggestions and collaborations. W&M ISAB could try to find a way to create similar outcomes.  
   c. Meeting with Dean of Students Office (DOSO)  
      - Streamlined readmission process for international students. DOSO realizes that it takes longer for an intl. student to return to campus (e.g., need to request a new I-20 or apply for new visa).  
      - Shared ISAB’s feedback about freshmen international students being “very afraid” of committing plagiarism. DOSO will look into changing their education on plagiarism so that it is not too heavy handed.  
      - Informed them about the needs of S. Korean male students who are returning to W&M after a long leave of absence due to military service. DOSO is already aware of their needs and have plans to require returning students to attend transfer orientation.
- DOSO is looking into providing education to intl. students on the honor code and conduct issues.

d. Annual Pumpkin Carve event on Tues, Oct 29, 4-6pm @ Campus Center Patio
- ISAB members were encouraged to attend the event.

3. ISAB Updates
   a. Academic advising for intl. students
      - ISAB members who were majoring in BBA felt that the program provided a wide range of academic advising. The program offers special topics taught by industry people. Access to Executive Partners was also very helpful. Compared to other depts., the BBA program sends out a lot of relevant announcements to the students.
      - For other majors, students are assigned a faculty advisor, however, the student is the one who has to initiate and maintain the relationships.
      - For graduate students, they are expected to be more proactive due to their age and the expectations of graduate school.
      - There is no formal advising in the MBA program. 1st year students take core classes but it would be helpful if students received more guidance during the 2nd year.
      - Some students transfer to other universities due to incompatibilities with their advisors; however, this is very common for all graduate students.
      - Concerns about depts. and advisors providing support to graduate students who are subjected to visa administrative processing and thus are delayed returning to W&M. ISSP is already working with departments on resolving this issue.
      - VIMS students might not be able to attend workshops or events due to distance. Suggested doing live Skype session or recording workshops.
      - More support for MBA international students from MBA Career Center.

   b. Updating ISAB’s mission and goals
      - Members discussed expanding the board’s mission to include advocacy and outreach role.
      - This will expand the responsibilities of board members to include:
         - Outreach interviews
         - Providing expertise (e.g., serving on panels, committees, etc.)
      - Educating W&M community about the needs of intl. students (e.g., meeting with offices, student organizations, etc.)
      - All members agreed on the expansion of the mission.
      - Eva will start drafting the updated mission and goals.
      - Items that still need to be discussed:
         - How will members fulfill the new responsibilities? (e.g., doing X number of hours beyond the required meetings)
         - How will we create accountability? What would happen if members do not fulfill their responsibilities?

   c. Other
- All ISAB members have agreed to do outreach interviews.
- Discussed counseling resources for international students.
- Doing multiple outreach interviews with international students to gauge how the student is doing over a longer period.
- Members provided suggestions on how to reach out to students who are not very involved on campus.

4. Summarization and Future Goals
   a. Set goals and agenda topics for the next meeting
      - Discuss updated mission and goals.
   b. Final Meeting: Sunday, November 17 at 2pm

Meeting was adjourned at 4pm.