International Student Advisory Board
The Reves Center for International Studies

Date: September 22, 2013
Time: 2:00pm-3:30 pm
Location: Reves Room

In attendance:
Melody Li
Hua Ma
Kate Lv
Angel Zhang
Eva Wong

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. ISSP Reports to ISAB
   a. Orientation updates and stats
      - 245 students. 140 grad, 6 language house tutors, 99 ugrads. Top countries: China, India, South Korea, UK (exchange students).
      - Airport pickup for undergraduate students went really well. W&M Transportation Services did the shuttles. Pick-up is not available for graduate students at this point because they arrive at different times and often have pick-up support from their department.
      - ISSP held an International reception for graduate students before classes begin. President Reveley was present.
      - Packing list and housing tips were helpful for the new students.
   b. ESL Initiative
      - Proposal to establish an ESL institute at W&M will be submitted to the College. The ESL center will offer classes for current and incoming students. There will also be programs for special groups (e.g., visiting teachers or scholars, etc.)

3. ISAB Updates
   a. Leadership retreat debrief (ropes course)
      - Members who attended the leadership retreat felt that it was a great activity. The retreat helped members to strengthen their communication and teambuilding skills.
   b. English language resources on campus
      - Angel attended the “Academic Writing American Style” workshop. She shared her writing experiences with the students. She observed that many of the students were concerned about plagiarism. She felt that some of the students might be overly worried and thus might prevent them from being creative with their papers.
- Melody felt that the English language resources on campus were adequate for her. She often turned in drafts to her professors, although most professors do not require them.
- Kate mentioned that all law students are required to take a legal writing class. The Law Honor council also talks about plagiarism to the students.
- Hua explained that all graduate education students have to take a research class. He mentioned that paraphrasing can be difficult for intl. students. He has used the Writing Resources Center and found the consultants very helpful. Some students might hesitate to ask help from their professors.
- Angel and Melody: Professors can have one-on-ones with their students.

c. Paying tuition (e.g. wire transfer)
- Melody: There is a fee to use eservice.
- Angel: Wire transfer is the safest and cheapest. However, there are a lot of fees associated with doing a wire transfer. The information for wire transfers is not available on the W&M website. Students have to contact the Bursars Office for the information which can be very inconvenient.
- Kate: The wire transfer information should be translated into different languages, so that it is easier for parents.
- Eva: ISSP will follow up with the Bursars Office to help make the wire transfer process easier for international students.

d. Updating ISAB’s mission and goals
- Outreach interviews: ISSP will do outreach interviews with randomly selected international students every semester. All ISAB members present said that they would like to participate in the interviews.
- Since three board members were not present at the meeting, we decided to move the discussion on updating ISAB’s mission and goals to the next meeting.

4. Summarization and Future Goals
   a. Set goals and agenda topics for the next meeting
- ISAB will discuss expanding the advocacy and outreach role of the board at the next meeting.
- Providing expertise (e.g., serving on panels, committees, etc.)
- Educating W&M community about needs of intl. students

   b. Fall 2013 meetings
      Sunday, October 20 at 2pm
      Sunday, November 17 at 2pm