International Student Advisory Board  
The Reves Center for International Studies

Date: February 13, 2015  
Time: 3-4:30pm  
Location: Reves Room

In attendance  
Melody Li  
Yi Hua  
David Ji  
Adela Roa-Voran  
Vivek Patil  
Eva Wong

1. ISSP Reports to ISAB  
a. **International Student Leadership Conference** 2015 will take place on **Friday, March 27 evening and Saturday, March 28** all day & evening, ending with a dance party. Returning to Williamsburg on Sunday, March 29.  
   - Hosted and sponsored each year by James Madison University and Eastern Mennonite University.  
   - Offering scholarships to students majoring in business/management to attend conference. Info sent to these students.  
   - Let Eva know by **February 18** if you plan to attend.

b. **SWEM Library Grant**  
   - Procurement of materials to support ESL students and those who work with these students.

c. **Tax workshop**  
   - Two “Intro. to US Taxes” to be offered on Thursday, February 5 (4-5pm) & Friday, March 20, (3-4pm).  
   - The suggestion for the tax workshops were suggested by ISAB and members were happy that they were offered this semester.  
   - ISSP is finalizing the procurement of the Sprintax tax software. International students (including those on OPT) and scholars can use the software to file their federal taxes for free. ISSP will also arrange for the Commissioner of Revenue to help with VA taxes on specific days.

2. ISAB Updates  
a. **Summary of Fall outreach interviews**  
   - Eva thanked the ISAB members who conducted outreach interviews last semester. A total of 16 students were interviewed.  
   - ISSP’s GA, Summer Zheng analyzed the interviews and provided a summary of her analysis.
- ISAB members stressed the importance of building international alumni networks. These networks can be helpful to current students who are looking for internships or jobs.
- A searchable list of companies that have hired international students and/or have done visa sponsorships would also be helpful.
- Vivek: International students need more help at the beginning to successfully transition to the College and the US. It would be helpful to help connect incoming students with current international students particularly with home country students or students who speak similar languages.
- Eva: ISSP has International Orientation Peer Leaders who communicate with the new students. Perhaps we could expand this further.
- Members agreed to serve as resource for new students.
- Vivek: Some students also require more help with their communication skills at the beginning. Eva – We could look into expanding the Intl. Student Success Series to include more communication workshops.
- Adela: What counseling services are provided to couples or families? International students and their families face unique challenges and the W&M Counseling Center does not offer couples/family counseling.
- Yi Hua: The SOE has a Counseling Center and will look into it.

b. International Student Scholarships
- Blakely Scholarship: For 1 incoming undergraduate student. Covers first year tuition and expenses. To attract an underrepresented student.
- Academic & Professional Opportunities: $2500, 2 awarded in Fall, 3 awarded in Spring.
- Financial Hardship: $3000, on a rolling basis
- Intl. Student Award: $2000, $500 scholarships awarded to 4 students in the Spring semester.
- Members were happy with the scholarships we currently have for international students. Though limited, it can provide some support to international students.
- Members were also happy with the new format for the applications.

3. Summarization and Future Goals
   Spring 2015 meetings
   Friday, March 20, 3pm
   Friday, April 17, 3pm