

ISAB Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2016

Location: Swem Library

Time: 3-4pm

In attendance:

Terrence Ayuk-Takor

Jennifer Beckensteiner

Yiyang Liu

Hannah Hyunsoo Song

Elkie Vandenbeemt

1. Outreach Interview Summaries

- Elkie reviewed notes from “Fall 2016 ISAB Interview Report” (available on G: Drive)
 - Main points of follow up from ISAB members:
 - Yiyang and Hannah - Curious about updates regarding VPN access in China
 - All ISAB members - Opportunities for more international/diverse food options at dining halls
 - Yiyang - International student was in France studying abroad during riots - did not receive any email from W&M about how to protect herself/get advice during this time
- Comments on conducting the interviews
 - Jennifer and Terry - We interviewed students that had been in the US for a long time - they were very well-adjusted and did not need Reves for any support beyond immigration
 - Should there be more students interviewed who have spent less time in the US and might be more likely to utilize the resources offered by Reves?
 - Jennifer - Additionally, VIMS students are more likely to have a car; trips and events are not as applicable because they have transportation
 - General consensus was that trips and events are advertised an adequate amount, despite comments in some interviews that Reves advertises trips and events poorly, and not often enough
- Did you enjoy conducting the interviews? What challenges did you find with speaking with students? Overall beneficial experience?
 - Overall enjoyable experience. The biggest challenge was getting students to reply to emails to set up the interviews
 - Jennifer - Would be helpful to make deadline for completing interviews clear from the beginning of the process

ISSP's response to safety in Williamsburg and Gloucester

- Elkie provided the following update on safety:
 - Discussed safety in previous ISSP staff meeting
 - Nick Vasquez (Reves International Travel and Security Manager) serves on the W&M Emergency Management Team - will share ISAB feedback with the team.
 - Will also see if campus police might offer more active shooter response trainings, and will reach out to VIMS safety office.
 - ISSP will also play a more proactive role with handling crises and emergencies
- ISAB was glad that ISSP is taking steps to increase student safety
- Discussed recent presidential election
 - Jennifer - might be nice to reassure international students that they have nothing to worry about
 - Resources
 - Support group at VIMS - replicated at W&M
 - Some students have heard jokes about not being able to come back to the US after election
 - Generally speaking, W&M has been a very inclusive environment following the election. However, some international students are worried they're not going to graduate from college
 - Elkie to touch base with ISSP staff regarding how to approach this

Career support for international students

- Elkie provided the following update on career support
 - ISSP will educate students on H1B stats at work authorization workshops (OPT and H1B)
 - ISSP is working with the Career Center to educate students and provide comprehensive career advising (e.g. preparing to work in the US and/or home countries)
 - E.g. handouts, and other resources for working in the US and internationally after graduation
- Thoughts? Concerns? Anything in particular you would like addressed?
 - Jennifer - Quota for working in the US - OPT and H1B
 - Elkie - If ISSP were to have an event about careers, is there anything that could be offered other than what is offered in OPT sessions and by career center?
 - Yes - would be interested in some sort of career-themed event in the Reves Room with a representative from Cohen who can provide international student-specific advice

Spring ISAB Meeting dates (3pm in the Reves conference room)

Fri, Feb 3

Fri, March 3

Fri, April 7