

ISAB Meeting Minutes– September 15, 2017

Reves Conference Room, 2nd floor of Reves Center

Attendees: Archana Radhakrishnan, Arun Kumar Baskar, Qubin Qin, Priscilla Pontes Vaz, Hannah Song, Yiyang Liu, Cheng Guo and Eva Wong

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Group did an ice-breaker “What is the story behind your name?”

2. [Mission of ISAB and Responsibilities of Members](#)

- Review of ISAB mission
- Review of members’ responsibilities
- Activity: What is a representative? What is an advocate?

3. ISSP Reports to ISAB

a. New students stats

- 297 (apprx.) new students
- Comprehensive stats will come out in Oct

b. DACA Updates and Resources

- Shared with board members a summary of what Reves is doing to support W&M DACA students.
- The Reves Center is working collaboratively with the Center for Student Diversity, Counseling Center, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Campus Police, etc. to support the students. [Handout was provided to board members]
- Q: Will the students be allowed to complete their education? A: The DACA program will expire in 6 months. President Trump has asked Congress to come up with legislation to address the statuses of DACA individuals. There is still a lot of uncertainty but W&M is committed to supporting the students and ensuring that they have a future at the College.
- Q: How many students are there? A: They are 23 DACA students on campus. It is not a huge number compared to other campuses but the current political climate can cause a lot of anxiety amongst those students and the campus in general.
- Q: How about the travel ban? A: A US District Court has issued a temporary restraining order that blocks the travel ban. Therefore, the ban is currently not directly impacting any of our students.
- Q: Has enrollment been impacted? A: We were anticipating that enrollments might be significantly impacted this year but there was only a slight drop in enrollments. We assume that many students had already made the decision to enroll at W&M when the travel ban was announced and therefore, ended up joining us this Fall. It will be interesting to see the enrollment for next year. After the Charlottesville incident, some incoming students asked us about the safety of studying in VA. We assured them that W&M is about 2 hrs. away from Williamsburg and W&M values the presence of international students on campus.
- Some board members also mentioned that their family and friends had also expressed concerns after the Charlottesville incident.
- Board members were encouraged to share any concerns with the Reves Center.

c. How scholarship funds are awarded

- We have made some changes to the way we award international student scholarships.
- We have found that paying the funds to a student account required a lot of paperwork and time, therefore, in the future, we will try to reimburse expenses or cover them upfront.
- Reimbursements or direct payments also avoid the students from losing some of the money to taxes. In some cases, the federal government withhold up to 30% for taxes from a student scholarship.

d. Faculty & Staff Workshops

- The Reves Center offers workshops to faculty and staff to help them work effectively with W&M's international community. Fall 2017 workshops include
 - Path to H1B and Permanent Residency (also open to students)
 - Working with non-native English speaking Students

4. ISAB Updates and Discussion

a. Leadership retreat debrief

- Members enjoyed the retreat. It was a good exercise in communication, leadership and bonding.

b. Meeting with ODU's ISAB

- Eva is working with ODU's ISAB for a joint-meeting.

c. Updates from members (e.g., information and/or questions that Reves should know/that are important to international students)

- Arun will be emailing the MBA students for comments and suggestions.
- Priscilla provided an update about a law student who was stopped for driving with a foreign driver's license. Eva explained that international students can drive with a foreign driver's license but they should also carry an English translation of the license. Reves can provide support in such situations. Priscilla explained that the student will be due in court soon and will provide an update to Reves. Arun: Can Reves provide attorneys to the students? Eva: We cannot provide attorneys but we have a list of recommended attorneys that we can refer students to.
- Archana: Know of a student who has difficulty applying for a visa after a DUI. Eva: A student who is found guilty of DUI (Driving Under the Influence) will also receive sanctions from the College (usually a suspension). The student's visa will also be revoked. Eva explained that the Reves Center is already working with the student.

5. Future Meetings

Fri, Oct 20, 3pm

Fri, Nov 17, 3pm