

## ISAB Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2016

Location: Reves Conference Room

Time: 3-4pm

In attendance:

Jennifer Beckensteiner

Lopamudra Das

Yi Hua

Yiying Liu

Hannah Hyunsoo Song

Lisa Chuanyan Zhang

Eva Wong

### 1. ISSP Reports to ISAB

#### a. Fall 2016 W&M International Student Stats

- Jennifer – There are many J-1 students at VIMS, the total of J-1s seem low overall.
- Eva – Most degree-seeking students are here on F-1 visas. J-1 students are usually exchange students (i.e., here for a semester or two). A degree seeking student will usually have a J-1 visa if the student is primarily funded by the home country or is here on Fulbright.
- Jennifer – It might be helpful to have some kind of comparative stats, for example, showing trends, etc. and making it available online.

#### b. [International Student Opportunity Scholarships](#) are designed to help cover the cost of special educational opportunities such as attending a conference or engaging in a practicum or unpaid internship. The scholarship is open to international students in F-1 and J-1 statuses. The application period for this fall cycle closes at 11:59pm on November 1.

- Jennifer – A VIMS student had received the scholarship but the funds were deposited to his student's account. It would be helpful if the money went straight to the student, so that the student could use it for conference expenses, etc.
- Eva – Will check with Steve on this issue and ask about how we can make the disbursement of funds easier for students.

### 2. ISAB Updates and Discussion

#### a. Outreach Interviews

- Eva - How are they going? Interview summaries due on October 31 to Elkie Vandenbeemt at [globe@wm.edu](mailto:globe@wm.edu)
- Hannah – Interviewed 2 students.
- Yiying – Interviewed 2 students.
- Lisa – No one has responded yet.

- Jennifer – I am following up on a student who was interviewed last year. Could you send me interview notes from last year?
- Eva – Yes, I can send it to you.
- Lisa – If no student responds, can I interview students I know?
- Eva – Yes, the goal is to do as many interviews as possible. However, you are encouraged to approach students whom you do not know well.
- Yi – How about interviewing via Skype or phone?
- Eva – Yes, if it makes it easier for the interviewees.
- Hannah – How about the write up?
- Eva – Can be bulleted. It does not need to be in an essay format.

#### b. Safety on-and off-campus

- In light of the events (Crust shooting, armed robbery of two international students) and the increased visibility these incidents receive due to new reporting requirements, the Reves Center would like to get a sense of students' perception of safety on and off campus and if the university is doing enough to protect students.
- Hannah – My friend was involved but he was not robbed and he seems to be ok.
- Lisa – A visiting law scholar was very scared by it. She arrived at Williamsburg recently. She did not go anywhere for Fall break because of the incident. Other visiting scholars were scared too.
- Hannah – I still feel it is safe here. The alerts are helpful.
- Yi – We received emails from different administrators. However, more emphasis should be given to the resolution email. A follow-up email from Reves can be helpful. Include information such as emergency contact, resources for help, etc.
- Yiying – Provide general personal safety tips and guidance. When in danger, what do you do?
- Jennifer – A “Responding to an Active Shooter Event” training was held at VIMS but I missed it. I hope they will offer more trainings in the future.
- Eva – I will check with a colleague who is on the W&M Emergency Management team to see if there will be more trainings.
- Hannah – Provide more security for students living off-campus.
- Jennifer – I think it is safer here than Gloucester. Many students have to walk to their nearby homes in the dark.
- Yiying – You can look up crime stats on google.
- Yi – Campus Escort info is no longer on the student ID.
- Jennifer – The recent accidental email about an active shooter at VIMS was scary. A friend from Germany was shaken up due to recent terrorist events in Europe.

#### c. Career Development Support

- Supporting alumni who would like to or have to find jobs outside the US.
- Provided H1B lottery stats. In 2016, USCIS received 236, 000 H1B applications for 85, 000 available slots. Only 36% of the applications were picked for processing. This means that even if an international student finds a company that is willing to do the H1B sponsorship, the chances of receiving a H1B visa is pretty slim.

- Lisa – Many law students do internships and then return to their home countries if they cannot get the H1B.
- Eva – Do they know that this is what they might be heading into?
- Lisa – Yes, they are prepared.
- Eva – Students could see OPT as an opportunity to gain work experience in the US for a year and then be prepared to return home or go to another country.
- Yi – This information would be new to most students. Academic Advisors play a role in helping students to plan accordingly. Many Chinese students tend to read second hand information and definitely are not aware of the reality.
- Jennifer – When do you plan to provide the information to students?
- Eva – During the Spring semester at OPT and H1B workshops. I am also working with the Career Centers to better educate and advise students of their options. It is important to help students to prepare holistically for their careers.
- Yi – It is a complicated issue. How are Admission Offices handling this?
- Eva – We have provided the information to some offices. The current H1B trends can be challenging for offices but it's important for the College to provide accurate information to prospective students.

### 3. Future Meetings

Friday, November 11, 3pm – Elkie Vandenbeemt (Graduate Assistant for International Programs) will lead the meeting.