

**International Student Advisory Board
The Reves Center for International Studies**

Date: March 20, 2015

Time: 3-4:30pm

Location: Reves Room

In Attendance

Lopa Das

Adela Roa-Voran

Angel Zhang

David Ji

Ashley Deng

Steve Sechrist

1. ISSP Reports to ISAB

a) **ISSP receives Grant to establish English Language Program**

- Talked about how an ELP can support international students at W&M
- 1st semester and year support is most critical
- Adela advocated for VIMS, that either classes be taught there or we schedule the graduate student ESL classes so that the VIMS students could take the bus

b) **Welcome Book going online!**

- Positive response from board
- Liked the look of it – very attractive
- Suggested having a link to the welcome book available because a couple of board members had read it and found it helpful
- A campus map would be helpful
- New Student and Scholar website needs to be clearer – too confusing

c) **Recruitment for new ISAB members will take place in early April. Please let Eva know if you do not plan to serve on the board next year**

- Asked how many new members they are recruiting (Eva will follow up)

2. ISAB Updates

a) **Member updates**

- No updates voiced

b) **International Student Fee**

- Steve talked about the need for a fee increase to support our operations
- Members were generally fine with the fee increase if it means better support, particularly in the area of career services/support
- In terms of messaging, it would be important to tell students what they will get for the increase

- In terms of timing of message, avoid beginning of May when messages about all the other fee/tuition increases go out
- Discussed some ideas to enhance career support:
 - Bringing in a speaker (e.g. Dan Beaudry)
 - Offering to cover travel costs for company recruiters who hire international students to come to W&M fairs
- Lopa suggested perhaps phasing the increase in 2 steps (i.e. 1 year to \$50 and then the next to \$65). Steve responded that makes it seem like we are constantly raising fees.

c) **Suggestions for making orientation more interactive**

- Liked the idea of making it more interactive
- Angel said it was like the orientation they went through for her winter internship and she thought that was a good model
- Adela agreed that if you have to find the information yourself you remember it longer
- David mentioned the importance of covering topics like local laws, “what to do if you get pulled over or arrested”
- Police presenter was not clear last time during Fall orientation.

3. Summarization and Future Goals

Final ISAB Meeting Friday, April 17, 3pm