

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

Date: November 16, 2014

Time: 2-3:15pm

Location: Reves Room

In attendance

Angel Zhang

Ashley Deng

Yi Hua

David Ji

Lopa Das

Eva Wong

1. ISSP Reports to ISAB

- a. Hiring of Zabrina Williams, Immigration Systems Technician (20 hrs. a week)
- b. [Sunapsis](#) software rollout
 - Datafeed: ISSP, Sunapsis, and W&M IT are working together to sync the data feed (e.g., transfer of data) between SEVIS, BANNER & Sunapsis.
 - Sunapsis team visiting next week
- c. Reves new offices
 - The 2nd floor of Reves Hall have been converted into office space for the Reves Center. Renovation of the new space was completed in early November and staff have moved into the new space.
- d. End-of-semester Reception, Fri, Dec 5, 4-6pm Reves Room

2. ISAB Updates

- a. Updates from members (e.g., information and/or questions that Reves should know/that are important to international students)
 - Angel: An international student was wondering if she could take classes at another university during her last semester.
 - Eva: The student needs to seek permission from W&M and should contact the Reves Center for immigration related advising.
 - Lopa: One of the students interviewed asked if there is a way to receive course syllabi before coming to the US so that she could try to purchase the textbooks in her home country, which might be cheaper.
 - Eva: The student can try contacting the course instructor.
 - Lopa: Another student wanted to learn more about foods that are popular in the US so that she can understand the menu better at restaurants.
- b. Outreach interviews

- Members who did interviews enjoyed the opportunity talking with other international students. Everyone felt that the outreach interviews were a good way to get feedback from students.
- Angel: It took a very long time to set up the interviews. Some students did not respond to my emails. In the future, it would be helpful to get a longer list of names.
- Yi: We can provide incentive to the students to participate, maybe providing the opportunity to win a prize for those who participated. The winner can also be announced at the end-of-semester reception to publicize the interviews.
- Eva: Thank you to all of you for doing the interviews. Our GA, Summer Feng will analyze the interviews and I will provide a report during a board meeting in the Spring.

3. Discussion

a. Best ways to communicate with international students and the use of social media

- David: I feel that email is the best way.
- Eva: Yes, email is easy but we are finding that many students are not reading the emails we send. We understand that students receive many emails a day. We will continue to use email as the main way to communicate but we also want to explore other options.
- David & Angel: Facebook is not really effective because not everyone is active on Facebook.
- Eva: How about WeeChat?
- Angel, Ashley, & Yi: It is popular amongst Chinese students.
- Angel: CCSA & CUSA uses WeeChat and they can help the Reeves Center publicize information. I can give you the current president's contact information.
- Angel: The Business School Organization/Clubs also uses Blackboard for announcements.

Lopa: How about student blogs? For example, an article about popular American food.

All: Maybe an article by the Flat Hat or by an English major.

David: You can also provide the option for students to add their personal emails to the listserv.

Eva: How about Google Hangouts? Are Chinese students still experiencing problems accessing Google in China?

Angel, Yi & Hua: There are still problems but there are apps that you can use to circumvent the blocks.

b. Academic Advising resources on campus

- Angel: A mentoring program (pairing new intl. students with upperclassmen intl. students) would be helpful. Upperclassmen can share their experience with intl. students.
- David & Angel: You have to make the effort to seek out your academic and major advisors. They are only helpful as long as you use them as a resource.
- Lopa: I had a classmate who had problems with his advisor. Where can students go in such a situation?

- Eva: There is a University Ombuds who acts as a neutral party to help resolve conflict. I will do some research and email it to the board.

4. Summarization and Future Goals

a. Spring 2015 meeting dates

Friday, February 13, 3pm

Friday, March 20, 3pm

Friday, April 17, 3pm

b. Spring agenda items

- Education on Sex and gender-based discrimination and violence

c. Thank you and reflection

- Board members took some time to reflect on experiences serving on ISAB and their goals for next semester.