

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

Date: September 21, 2014

Time: 10-11:15am

Location: Reves Room

In attendance:

Lopamudra Das

Ashley Deng

Angel Zhang

David Ji

Vivek Patil

Yi Hua

Eva Wong

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. ISSP Reports to ISAB

a. Orientation updates and stats

- W&M welcomed 303 new international students this fall. The international student population at W&M is now close to 700 students. Emily Hogge is working on stats for this semester.

- Based on students' feedback and the differing graduate program schedules, orientation is now more spread out. ISSP now has specialized orientations for graduate programs (e.g., LLM, MAcc, etc.). New students now arrive earlier to campus and more check-in activities (e.g., shopping) are offered so that students have time to settle in to W&M and recover from jet lag.

b. Summer programs

- ISSP piloted two summer programs this year: Intl. Freshmen Advantage Program and the Graduate Business English & Culture Program. These programs are designed to provide incoming international students the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to be successful in the US. Enrollment was small this year but the feedback from participants were very positive.

c. Virtual Conversation Partner Program featured in EAB's report on "Supporting Int. Students on Campus: 17 High Impact Practices to Ensure Student Success."

d. Office of Undergraduate Admission's GA will be working on international admission.

e. Direct billing for trips co-pays. Exploring *Marketplace* for Spring.

3. ISAB Updates

a. Leadership retreat debrief (ropes course)

- Retreat attendees really enjoyed the retreat and everyone had fun. Everyone recommended that the ropes course be done every year. It was a great way to get to know one another.

- Lopa and Angel: This retreat was more focused on individual strengths instead of group development. Eva: For next year's retreat, we will request that the facilitator have more group activities and also take time to debrief.

- David: Ideally, all board members should attend the retreat. Eva explained that one member had to attend class and the other had work commitments. We might consider holding it on a Sunday next year.

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

- Vivek: MBA international students now arrive about two weeks earlier and they definitely have more time to take care of business before beginning MBA orientation.

- Angel: As an orientation peer leader, she recommended having longer shopping times, so that students had the time to take care of multiple tasks.

- Lopa: A new student had to pay high delivery services for furniture that he had bought. Eva: Students can post requests on post-it. The student could have submitted a request asking for help with the delivery.

- David: Are SSN trips offered at other times during the semester? Eva: No, it is only offered during the beginning of the semester because the SSN office opens its door early for our students. The spring trips are usually not filled and we can advertise the trip to returning students who have found jobs and need to apply for SSNs.

c. Paying tuition via *Peertransfer* (wire transfer)

- None of the members had used *Peertransfer* this year. It was new and most of them were not familiar with this option.

- Angel: Already had a wire transfer procedure that worked for her and her parents. She was not familiar with *Peertransfer* and was not sure if it was reliable. Eva: It is secure and many schools are using *Peertransfer*.

- Ashley: Compared the rates and it was more expensive to do the transfer via *Peertransfer*.

d. Outreach interviews – responsibility to interview at least 2 international students this semester

- Emily is compiling the list of students and the information will be provided to ISAB members within the next two weeks.

- Angel: Had a positive experience with the interviews but the challenge was that the students did not respond to her emails. Eva: We will provide a longer list of students' names this time and hopefully at least two of them would respond. We will also inform all the students ahead of time to explain the purpose of the outreach interviews and that ISAB members will be contacting them.

e. Fulfilling ISAB's mission (come up with 1-2 items that you would like to complete this semester to fulfill your responsibilities as an ISAB member)

- Vivek: Would like to set up a peer mentoring program, matching international students with domestic students. He would also like to help new international students understand American classroom culture and classroom expectations. Eva: Many of our programs are designed to help students understand American culture.

- David: Would like to invite international alumni to network with current intl. students. Perhaps a small event could be planned for Homecoming Weekend.

- Yi: Would like to organize a cultural festival for international students so that they can showcase their cultures. Eva: The MBA Intl. Student Society organizes different cultural festivals every year. Recommended for Yi to get in touch with Vivek for ideas.
- Ashley: Would like to create more opportunities for LLM & intl. JD students to interact with domestic students. For example, encouraging students to join the Asian Law Society and creating a conversation partner program between international and domestic students. Angel: Suggested that Chinese law intl. students to participate in the Chinese Language Partnership Program (<http://yubanwm.weebly.com/>), a language exchange program dedicated to connect Chinese language learners with Chinese international students.
- Lopa: Would like to update the ISAB logo to reflect our new mission and direction. She would also like to write essays, blog posts, etc. about her experience and on ISAB to increase the group's profile.
- Angel: Would like to work with David in contacting alumni who are currently working in the US. Would also like to mentor freshmen and sophomores.
- Eva: Encouraged members to collaborate on goals and offered to work with members individually to fulfill the goals.

4. Summarization and Future Goals

- a. Set goals and agenda topics for the next meeting
 - Members will provide progress reports on their goals.
- b. Group photo
 - Since not all group members were at the meeting, the group photo will be taken at the next meeting.
- c. Fall 2014 meetings
 - Sunday, October 19 at 2pm
 - Sunday, November 16 at 2pm (U of Richmond's ISAB joining us)