

International Student Advisory Board
Friday, Nov 9, 3pm at Reves Conference Room (2nd floor of Reves Center)

In attendance: Fei Da, Stephen Hsu, Vikram Gopal Konchady, YJ Yi, Jingjing Liu, Jing Zhou, Chenxi Lyu, Eva Wong, Hannah Leich and Amelia Nell.

Undergraduate Honor Council

- Amelia Nell (Vice Chair of Undergraduate Honor Council) – Honor Council is a student body of 24 elected majors with students from each undergraduate class year, there are also honor councils for each graduate school.
- Role: preside over honor council hearings if there are charges of lying, stealing, or cheating – do research to gather information and then assign sanctions and determine whether or not students are responsible. Current job is to try to promote the honor code and to make students aware of what the honor council is and to try to prevent cases in the first place.
- Here today because honor council sees a lot of disproportionate cases with international students and want to suggestions for honor council to promote the honor council among student body & international students who might be encountering honor code for the first time. Goal is to begin with educating students with presentations during orientation.
- Suggestions: It would be helpful to know stats about incidents – is it lack of understanding (freshman), is it due to pressure/stress (older students), what's the type of charges/cases that are most common. The largest issue they see is plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, unauthorized material. There are a lot of international freshman seen in honor council with plagiarism, a lot of older students feel a lot more stress and pressure to do well. Qualtrics survey to gather information about students current understanding of honor. Help students see examples of what is considered cheating or unauthorized collaboration. Important to reiterate and highlight the most important things, repetition throughout semester or years to help students remember. Suggest small quiz before class registration to remind students of honor code. Workshops and connections that involve both graduate & undergraduate students of their understanding of academic honor. Using programs like SafeAssign to help students see if and where they are plagiarizing. Letting students know they have options – they can ask for an extension or take an incomplete and try to figure out another option than just turning in a plagiarized paper.
- Language barrier with understanding a policy or in the honor council process. Difficult for students to learn how to navigate the class (deadlines, blackboard, APA style, etc.) could be helpful for peer. Helpful for professors to write down their individual policies in their syllabus so students can continuously refer back to them.
- The honor council is also trying to integrate more diversity onto the council and it would be really helpful to have international students on the council and would really encourage international students to apply to honor council.

Reports from ISSP

- Name Coach App – Campus is looking into buying this app that will allow students to say their name and it will be recorded and then saved in banner so that professors can hear how their name is pronounced or hear their preferred name. Campus is currently looking at bids from different companies and then the campus will evaluate and choose the best option and then award a contract. The committee is currently reviewing the bids, Steve Sechrist from Reves is on this committee, and they're working to choose one that will work for the campus. Would be helpful for everyone, faculty, staff, & students to all use it.
- Alumni Newsletter (twice a semester) – Hannah is creating a bi-semester newsletter that will include spotlights on alumni and news of what's going on on-campus to keep connected with alumni. Please feel free to contribute ideas of alumni to spotlight or other topics you think should be covered in these newsletters.
- On-campus summer storage – no longer on-campus summer storage available. Working with procurement to have options for students to store belongings on campus over the summer. Eva will be reviewing submissions to make sure that these options meet the needs of international students. It won't be free, but will try to keep the costs as low as possible.

Discussion

- Mental Health support for students
 - Needs, Gaps and Suggestions - The counseling center only provides services every other week. If you want services every week, you have to look into services in the community which can be really hard for international students to reach out to. The percent of students who actually make use of services might be low: survey focused to international students to understand why they are/aren't using services. Accessibility of services because of the language barrier, can be hard to describe your feelings and experience. Could be good to help refer students to a counselor who might be able to speak their native language. Would also be good for counseling center to make new students the priority in their transition and provide more resources for these students. Would be helpful for students to know that there are financial supports for them to receive help and that there are options if they need to seek services off-campus. Having weekly workshops with stress management techniques could be a good idea. Could help to make mental health support less formal, to encourage students to seek help before it gets too bad. Provide information from Reves Center to students about places they can go and people they can reach out to.
- Goals for next semester – find some new ISAB members to replace those who are graduating. YJ wants to pass on his social media idea to an ISAB member who will be here in the Spring and continuing on.

Wrapping up

- Appreciations – YJ will be graduating this semester and we appreciate his service to the board and W&M.
- Spring semester meeting dates
 - Friday, February 1 – 3pm
 - Friday, March 1 – 3pm
 - Friday, April 5 – 3pm