

International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) 2020-21 August Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2020, 9:00am-10:20am, via WebEx Members attended: 5/9

Agenda

Agenda

1. Ice breaker: What was the highlight of the past week?
2. Short recap of the last meeting (10 min)
3. Small groups present their work (20 min each)
 - Cultural engagement
 - Departments survey
 - ISS engagement
4. ISAB statement, how's that coming along?
5. Closing comments

2

Icebreaker

Q: What's the highlight of your last week?

- Rung: Enjoyed mountain climbing
- Kinzang: Baked a lot and shared baked food with friends
- Sean: Visited friends and hang out with them
- Ambar: Tomato harvest
- Dingyi: Finishing internship soon and is excited about coming back to home
- Dong: Hang out with friends and watched a movie together

Recap of Last Meeting (15 min)

Ambar briefly introduced what the group discussed in the ISAB July Meeting.



Small-Group Presentations

Small groups presented their takeaways from their discussion to the group (20 min each). The groups are:

- Cultural engagement: Hiya Jain, Rung Shih
- Departments survey: Ambar Carvallo, Dingyi Zhou, Anuj Modi
- ISS engagement: Sean Yan

Cultural Engagement (Hiya Jain, Rung Shih, Ruisu Zhang)

Rung:

- Talked with Hiya virtually through GoogleChat last week
- ISAB can help international students with different cultural background to promote their cultures by
 - o making a closer connection to student organizations
 - o having posts and videos on social media (Potential ideas/topics: Some facts about different cultures
 - o Introducing at least one student organization at the end of each social media post
- Next step: To figure out

- social media platforms that ISAB can use
- how to present the information

Department Survey (Ambar Carvallo, Dingyi Zhou, Anuj Modi)

- Dingyi introduced the current state of their team's work (see screenshots below).

Departments Survey

1. Definition of problem to solve

Evaluate and understand international student's feelings related to atmosphere, diversity and inclusion in their departments and/or colleges. Improve international students' engagement and inclusion in the university.

2. Definition of current state

Climate survey (2016) finds that students from different backgrounds feel less comfortable in the university climate. There is no department or college specific information.

3. Definition of target state

Gather information related specifically to international students experience and deliver a report with key aspects to improve in each College/department.

Departments Survey

4. Action items – timeline

- Who: Survey aimed to international faculty and international students (similar but separate surveys) . ISAB members will create survey with help the ISS. ISS sends out survey?
- What: creating survey, sending it to colleges and students, and then analyzing the information regarding inclusion, diversity and social justice from the point of view on international students
- When:
 September: Keep discussion regarding the objectives of survey and start working on general questions. Read Climate Survey report in detail and see what information we can obtain from that.
 October: continue creating survey, get feedback form ISAB members and ISS representatives.
 November: maybe finish up survey?

8

- Question from the Department Survey team-- to whom (international students on F/J visa? students of color? other historically underserved students? someone else?) should they send the survey to & how can they get these students' contact information?
- Sharece answered that ISAB serves UW-Madison students on F and J visas & ISAB can send it through the ISAB email. We will need people to monitor the result after sending it.

ISS engagement: Sean Yan

- Sean introduced the current state of their team's work (see screenshots below).

Engagement from ISS to International students

- support new international students who will begin their studies at UW-Madison Fall 2020
 - Ask questions
 - Host conversation
 - Share resources
- Actively promote ISS events in orientation

Engaging with student associations to work as intermediaries

- Help to promote events through ISS social media pages and news letter
- Provide resources

Sharing short videos of international students

- Similar to the "share a picture" initiative
- Having students sharing what they are doing during coronavirus quarantine
- Raising the awareness of preventing disease outbreak

- Dong shared a few updates from ISS:
 - [Fall Engagement Announcement](#)
 - [SEVP Message Rescinded](#)
 - [ISS has a new Caseload](#)

- Sharece shared what ISS has been doing regarding items above –
 - What we have been doing:
 - [The Global Badger Experience Grant \(GBEG\)](#) encourages Registered Student Organizations to collaborate with one another to hold events that provide multiple perspectives on global engagement and cultural understanding, and/or to foster international student integration within the campus community.
 - [ISS Affiliated Student Organizations](#)
 - ISS works with [Madison Friends of International Student \(MFIS\)](#) to connect international students with local residents, participate in fun events, and get involved in the Madison community.
 - Next steps:
 - Sharece and Dong would like to have some ISS-specific time (1 hour at each meeting) at ISAB meetings starting in September. Here is what we would like to do:
 - 30 minutes will be dedicated to providing structured feedback to ISS regarding specific areas. (Dong will lead this.)
 - 30 minutes will be dedicated to social justice topics and discussion. (Sharece will lead this.)
 - The second hour of ISAB would still be ISAB team members' time to spend. We will work on making our 1 hour engaging for the members

Close up comments (15 min)

- Ambar introduced the ISAB next steps before the September meeting:

Next
meetings

- New poll to know members schedule on the Fall, we will set up the meetings in the calendar before the start of the semester.

Open mic.

- Ambar: Some international students questioned if it's reasonable for UW-Madison to still charge students segregated fees, such as the international student fee, while many programs and services are suspended for the fall semester.