

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

Friday, September 11, 2020, 2:00pm-3:00pm, via WebEx Members attended: 6/9

Agenda

1. Ice Breaker (10 minutes)
2. Focus Group Discussion (30 minutes)
3. Social Justice Education (5 minutes)
4. Small-Group Presentations (15 minutes)
5. Closing Comments (5 minutes)

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Q: Give your week a number from 1 to 5 and comment on why.

- Ambar: 3 out of 5. Feeling neutral, busy with graduate school.
- Hiya: 2, busy with school.
- Kingzang: 2 to 3, busy with the start of the semester.
- Anuj: 4. Busy week. Has the TA job along with classes, but feels good.
- Sean: 2 to 3. Busy week. Attending the fall semester out of the U.S. with the time difference. Is still getting used to online classes and discussions
- Ruisu: 3 to 4. The homework and other projects are so far manageable.
- Dong: 3. Cold weather. Busy with work.
- Sharece: 2/3. Busy time for work; Currently working from home in Oregon, where has massive wildfire.

Focus Group Discussion (30 min)

Dong shared the discussion material below before the meeting. At the beginning of the discussion session, Dong also briefly introduced the purpose and procedure of this group discussion.

Discussion Materials

Websites – Review 3 websites below:

1. Homepage: <https://iss.wisc.edu/>
2. Our COVID Page with constant Updates about COVID-19 information, travel, enrollment, and much more: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/health/covid-19-updates/>
3. How an International student can find their ISS advisor based on our caseload model: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/find-my-iss-advisor/>

General Question

1. What is/are your favorite websites and why? (Request a brief explanation of what makes each of them appealing)

Questions to ask for each webpage:

2. What are your favorite features of this page and why?
3. What are your least favorite features of this page and why?
4. Suggestions for improvement?

Optional websites to be reviewed & discussed:

1. Full-time enrollment information which is important for an immigration record: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/f1-information/full-time-enrollment/>
2. Video tutorials for an international student to know about Terra Dotta (TDS) features: <https://iss.wisc.edu/terra-dotta-tutorials/>
3. What F-1 students have to do to maintain their immigration status: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/f1-information/>
4. What J-1 students have to do to maintain their immigration status: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/j-1-information/>
5. What a student needs to travel internationally: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/travel/>
6. How a student can renew their immigration documents: <https://iss.wisc.edu/students/current-students/travel/renew-or-replace-your-documents/>
7. SSN information: <https://iss.wisc.edu/employment/social-security/>

Group Discussion

Ambar: Three websites look great; they have all the information that is needed. A good amount of information and easy to access.

Anuj: Agreed with Ambar's idea. Suggested that ISS can add more international student stories, statistics, and comments on the website. Used the ISS websites of Cornell and Harvard as references.

Ruisu: Suggestion—For make the instruction on the Find my Advisor page more clear & helpful for students, ISS can add the link of the Terra Dotta Tutorial page to it. out of the 3 webpages. Ruisu likes the homepage the most. The Smart restart link and the student quick links are helpful.

Sean: Also likes the student quick links session on the ISS website. Besides that, the Announcements session is also helpful.

Ambar: Info on the COVID-19 page is up-to-date and useful. Has used the ISS COVID-19 page to search for info for a couple of times in the past months.

Sharece: A question for the group -- What might be the reason(s) that some students would end reading the info on the ISS website for answers and ask ISS staff questions instead?

Ambar: Has a positive user experience with the ISS website so far.

Sean: Sometimes students might be too lazy/impatient to look up the information from the website. As a result, they would rather ask ISS staff. Also, for some ISS webpages, such as the COVID-19 updates page, it has so much information and a long list. It could be time-consuming and hard for students to find the info they want. Suggested that ISS should improve the website content organization for the COVID-19 page.

Kinzang: It's a matter of whether students would go there to check the info. Agreed with what Sean shared.

Social Justice Education (5 minutes)

Sharece shared the Social Justice prompts below for the group's learning:

To prepare for social justice conversations, please review the following definition:

"We believe that social justice is both a process and a goal. The goal of social justice is full and equal participation of all groups in society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs. Social justice includes a vision of society in which the distribution of resources is equitable and all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure. We envision a society in which individuals are both self-determining (able to develop their full capacities) and interdependent (capable of interacting democratically with others). Social justice involves social actors who have a sense of their own agency as well as a sense of social responsibility toward and with others, their society, and the broader world in which we live. These are conditions we wish not only for our own society but also for every society in our interdependent global community."

-- Lee Anne Bell

Please also take time to read and respond to these questions:

- What does social justice mean to me?
- When someone brings up social justice in classes or in my personal life, what emotions or feelings come up?
- How do I learn about social justice?
- What does social justice look like in ISS and at UW-Madison?
- What does social justice mean in my home community or country?

Additional Questions:

- Where have you seen social injustices show up during the COVID-19 Pandemic?
- What do I know about social justice?
- What does equity mean?

For the prompts above, ISAB will have a thorough group discussion on them at the next ISAB meeting.

Small-Group Presentations

Small groups presented updates on their group work. The groups are:

- a. Cultural engagement: Hiya Jain, Rung Shih
 1. No project updates.
- b. Departments survey: Ambar Carvallo, Dingyi Zhou, Anuj Modi
 1. Dingyi shared a survey example with group members. The group has started to design its survey.
- c. ISS engagement: Sean Yan
 1. No project updates.

Close up comments/Next Steps (15 min)

- After this meeting, Ambar will send out a new poll via email to ISAB members to finalize the ISAB fall meeting schedule.
- For the next ISAB meeting, Sharece and Dong would like to have an hour as the ISS-specific time. 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.