

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

Wednesday, December 09, 2020, 7:00pm-9:00pm, via WebEx

ISAB Members attended: 5/7

ISS Staff attended: Samantha McCabe, Morgan Keller, Preamtip Satasuk, Dong Chen

Agenda

1. Ice breaker (15 mins) – Anuj leads
2. ISAB community agreement & Member responsibilities (15 mins) – Dong leads
3. ISAB next step update (10 mins) – Sam leads
4. Discussion Topic: International Student Orientation & ISS Virtual Engagement (40 mins) – Morgan leads
5. Social justice conversation (35 mins) – Pream leads
6. Meeting review & Define the next meeting's agenda (5 mins) – Group effort

Icebreaker (15 mins)

Prompts: 1. Favorite food from your home country 2. Last song that you listened to

- Anuj: Panipuri
- Dong: Hotpot
- Dingyi: Sichuan hotpot (the spicy one)
- Ruisu: Yunan rice noodle
- Pream: Tom yum soup
- Rung: Taiwanese stinky tofu with kimchi
- Sean: Stinky tofu, Dim Sum.
- Sam: Stinky tofu, Vietnamese pho.

ISAB community agreement & Member responsibilities (15 mins)

ISAB Community Agreement

1. Encourage everyone to participate
2. One person talks at a time
3. All voice matters
4. Speak from personal experience
5. Respect Confidentiality
6. Value the strength of diverse input
7. Be concise, stay on topic
8. Have fun / Use humor

ISAB Member Responsibilities

ISAB 2020-2021 Term

- March 2020 – May 2021

ISAB Member Responsibilities

- Attend ISAB Meetings
 - Communicate to Dong or Pream in advance about any absences. From Nov. 2020 to May 2021, if you have two un-notified meeting absences, your ISAB membership will be terminated.
- Make progress on the ISAB work
- Reach out to international student peers to hear about their experience
- Learn about ISS resources and outreach for international students and share this with peers
- Meet with the ISS ISAB staff members (Dong and Pream) to check-in
- Complete the check-in form when requested
- Present the "Board Report" to full ISS Staff each semester (Spring 2021)

ISAB Internal Communications

1. Teams

Mandatory: Reply/react to ALL posts in the following channels in the ISAB Teams"

1. General channel
2. Professional Development Opportunities channel

2. Emails from ISAB staff members

Mandatory: After receiving emails from ISAB staff members, each member should reply with a short email indicating that you have received it

ISAB Next step update (15 mins)

Sam talked about the reasons for having changes in ISAB's work areas and pointed out the ISAB new directions (see below).

Areas that ISS would like to have feedback from ISAB

- ISS Programs (Last month's discussion)
- ISS Engagement Events (Today's discussion)
- Feedback to ISS Communication (Insta, FB, Website, Newsletter)
- ISS major initiatives
 - ISO (Today's discussion)
 - Caseload Model
 - ISS Virtual Advising

Discussion Topic: International Student Orientation & ISS Virtual Engagement (40 mins) – Morgan leads

Guest Speaker – Morgan Jesse Keller, the ISS Assistant Director of Student Transitions and Co-curricular Education.

In this session, Morgan conducted a brief self-introduction, talked about ISS's plan for Spring 2021 International Student Orientation (ISO), and introduced ISS's virtual engagement events in Fall 2020 to ISAB members.

Spring 2021 ISO

- International Student Orientation and Check-in within Terra Dotta (required)
- ISS live, virtual orientation session (optional on Friday, 1/22 - will be recorded, captioned, and posted on ISS website)
 - Content: staff introductions, an overview of ISS, Terra Dotta, important rules for maintaining F-1/J-1 visa status, ISS programs and events, tips for settling in and a successful start from Global Badgers (Dong), Q&A
- International Student Welcome & Information Fair (ISWIF)
 - To be held virtually during the first week of classes
- Extended orientation Friday series (optional)
 - International student success virtual sessions for new and continuing Global Badgers on Fridays from 11 am-12 pm
 - Topics and presenters: Academic Success (Undergraduate Advising), Career Preparation (SuccessWorks, ISS), Health & Wellbeing (MHS, RecWell), U.S. Laws & Safety (UWPD), Student Life & Leadership (CfLI), Cultural Adjustment & Intercultural Communication (ISS)

Introducing ISS Engagement Programs

- International Reach
- PEACE (Practicing English And Cultural Exchange)
- Global Café
- Lost in Transmission: International Student Conversations on Living & Learning amidst COVID-19

Discussion Questions

Do you remember attending ISO and doing Check-in when you started your academic program? How was your experience?

Dingyi:

- I did not attend the in-person ISO sessions due to the late arrival, but I attended the virtual session instead. The guidance provided in the sessions was helpful for new students.

Sean:

- I attended the SOAR session that ISS was a part of. In that SOAR session, they divided students into small groups based on interest and academic department. I was able to make good connections and I think that's a good practice.

- For ISO, large sessions could get long and boring sometimes. Thus, for large sessions, I suggest that ISS can add more interesting elements to it.

Rung:

- Last summer, I arrived in Madison earlier for the ESL program and had orientation. The orientation was long. Students were mostly sitting there and listening during the whole orientation. There was not much interaction available. It got overwhelming and boring.

Anuj:

- Don't remember the session being bored, but remember things being very new and helpful at that time.

Rung:

- Hope that there could have been more guidance for students about applying to the social security card in ISO.

A question for the next discussion – What makes you want to join a virtual event? What kind of events have you attended since the University switched to online learning? What did you like about them?

Anuj: Trivia night & Murder Mystery party

*ISAB will continue this conversation with Morgan earlier next semester.

ISAB Social justice Conversation (35 mins)

- To make our social justice conversations a safe space for ISAB members to share their experiences and thoughts, we have decided to not take meeting notes for the group discussion.
- Below is the discussion material that ISAB members reviewed before this conversation.

International Student Advisory Board Social Justice Discussion

Date: Wednesday, December 09, 2020

Time: 8:00 PM, CST

Location: WebEx

Theme3: Mixed Race/Multiracial People Experience

Learning Objectives:

Meeting attendees will be able to do the following:

1. Define the term “Mixed Race/Multiracial People.”
2. Identify personal experiences of feeling “stuck in between cultures”
3. Identify ways of using experiences above to grow and to support international students

Agenda

1. Review Ground Rules.
2. Review the definition shared below.
3. Open Discussion
 - a. Pream will facilitate the discussion based on the pre-work questions.

- b. All are encouraged to participate.
- 4. Closing Question:
 - a. What is one thing you are taking away from this conversation?

Ground Rules

- **Challenge by choice.**
 - You are encouraged to participate in all social justice and identity conversations at ISAB.
 - Be vulnerable. Vulnerability is an asset in social justice work.
 - We encourage you to show your video as bandwidth permits.
- **Pay attention to the parts of the conversation that make you uncomfortable.**
 - Reflect on your discomfort.
 - Discuss this discomfort with someone you trust at home or here in ISAB.
 - Identify what you want to learn and where you want to challenge yourself.
- **Use I-statements.**
 - It is important to speak from our own experience. Everyone comes from different environments and backgrounds.
- **Call in rather than call out.**
 - When someone says something that triggers you and/or challenges your ideology, call them in by asking questions to clarify meaning or understanding.
- **Come as a learner.**
 - We are all learners in this discussion.
 - No one person is perfect in their quest or work in social justice.
- **Acknowledge the realities: we are part of a system of racial and social injustice; we have power and privilege that impacts how we experience the world.**
- **Meet one another where we are.**
- **What is said here stays here. What is learned here, leaves here.**

Meeting Pre-Work (shared on 12/07)

Task 1: Read the unofficial definition of **biracial and multiracial identity development**: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biracial_and_multiracial_identity_development

Task 2:

1. Listen to the 29-minute Code Switch podcast, 'Racial Impostor Syndrome': Here Are Your Stories.

Here is the link: <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/06/08/462395722/racial-impostor-syndrome-here-are-your-stories>

2. Spend 5-10 minutes writing about the different pieces above.
 1. What came up for you?
 2. What did you learn?
 3. What other experiences do you have with this topic?

Task 3: Prepare for the following discussion questions:

1. How do you feel about the terms Mixed Race and Multiracial?
2. Why do you think there are so many different terms for or ways of describing people with more than one cultural background?
3. Do you have any personal experiences with feeling “stuck in between cultures”? How has this impacted you? How can we use these experiences to grow and to support international students?

Open Discussion -- Group discussion time on six (3+3) questions above.

Closing Question -- What is one thing you are taking away from this conversation?

Meeting Review & Next Meeting Agenda (5 mins)

The next ISAB meeting is scheduled for February 2021.