

IES Committee Monthly Meeting

Agenda Date: Feb 7, 2025

Time: 12 -1 pm

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Miyuki Arimoto, Ricardo Pelegrín-Taboada, Dani Lane, Sean Roush, Ya-Fang Cheng, Joe Macade, Rajeeb Poudel, Paula Baldwin, Carmen Cáceda, Feier Hou, Dani Lane, Erin Trine

FS International Education and Service Committee

The FS International Education and Service Committee discussed challenges faced by international students, including visa difficulties, high living costs, and limited on-campus employment opportunities. Joe Macade reported a decline in Indian applications and noted that 77 spring applications resulted in 47 admissions, with 79 fall applications and 67 admissions. The committee emphasized the need for better support, including conversation partners, career resources, and culturally relevant food options. They also planned for an International Day event in week three or seven of the spring term, focusing on integrating international students and promoting cultural awareness.

Action Items

- [] @Joe- Reach out to international students to get their input on the best timing and ideas for the International Day event.
- [] Reserve a room/space for the International Day event.
- [] Coordinate with the organizers of the HSI Summit to ensure there is no conflict with the International Day event.

Outline

Welcoming and Agenda Overview

- Ya-Fang welcomes everyone and shares the meeting agenda link in the chat.
- Ya-Fang introduces Joe to share updates about the office and mentions the workload for committee members and chairs.
- Ya-Fang plans to recap the international students' feedback and discuss reactions and actions.
- Ya-Fang mentions the need to plan the International Day event and invites Joe to start sharing updates.

Updates from Joe Macade

- Joe discusses the decline in applications from India due to visa difficulties.
- Joe mentions the impact of the new U.S. administration on international student recruitment, including the decision to cancel a recruiting trip to the Middle East.
- Joe provides current application and admission numbers for the spring and fall terms, noting the long wait times for visas.

Discussion on Economic Challenges and Scholarships

- Paula asks if hybrid classes are considered online for funding purposes, and Joe confirms they might be approved.
- Carmen asks about the number of international students who started at Western last year, and Joe provides the current numbers and recent departures.
- Joe discusses the challenges of admitting students with dual nationality and the process for Japanese students.
- Rajeeb raises concerns about international students working off-campus, and Joe advises students to keep their visa documents to prove their legal status.

International Student Support and Challenges

- Miyuki discusses the challenges for international students in the Criminal Justice program and the limitations on their job opportunities.
- Ya-Fang shares feedback from international students about the high cost of living, lack of emergency funds, and shortage of in-person classes.
- Ya-Fang mentions the need for better support from campus offices and the idea of having a dedicated person for international students to talk to.
- Ya-Fang highlights the importance of career support for international students after graduation and the need for resources for non-traditional students.

Planning for International Day Event

- Ya-Fang and Paula discuss the idea of featuring international foods at the International Day event to make students feel more welcome.
- The group suggests asking international students what foods they would like to be featured and emphasizes the importance of making the event inclusive.
- The group discusses potential dates for the International Day event, considering the timing of the HSI Summit and the academic calendar.
- Joe will check with international students about their availability during the proposed dates and to start planning the event.

Next Steps and Action Items

- Ya-Fang Cheng outlines the next steps, including reserving a room for the International Day event and finalizing the event details.
- The group agrees to think about what kind of event would be inclusive and engaging for the entire campus community.
- Ya-Fang Cheng thanks everyone for their participation and sets the next meeting date for March 7.
- The group discusses the importance of clear communication and collaboration to support international students effectively.