

Notes from the International Student Recruitment, retention and Alumni Services Committee Meeting – February 21, 2007 - Student Development Conference Room, B.B. Dougherty Hall.

Present: Tracey Wright (Chair), Carter Hammett-McGarry (Co-chair), Rachel Shinnar, Monica Silva, Xiaorong Shao, Paul Hiatt, George Ehrhardt, Carl Jenkins
Ex-Officios: Bob White, Nancy Wells, Tim Zacher and Jeanne d'Arc Gomis

Absent: NA

Notes taken by Tracey Wright

George was welcomed to the group.

The notes from the meeting held on January 24, 2007 were accepted by consensus. After a discussion of a point for clarification regarding whether or not we will be the first to use the Atlas Program. It was determined that we won't be the first to use it, but we will be first to flag students of various profiles in order to determine who to offer services via Banner.

The majority of our time was spent discussing the Enrollment Management Plan and making revisions to it. Some of the areas of conversation include the following items.

- Immigrant Outreach – concerns were raised over the use of the words immigrant and immigrant populations vs. using the words internationals or non-US citizens. Several members of the committee reaffirmed their desire to see the OIED offer services to students whose visa types might not currently require that services be provided, as well as to students who might be undocumented. It was suggested that Tracey and Carter ask Jesse Lutabingwa to bring up this topic at the University Council on International Programs meeting in April, which will be hosted by Appalachian State University. (We need to locate the NC law on admitting undocumented students and send it out to the group)
- The lack of inclusion of graduate students as a group to increase our international student numbers in the stated outcomes was discussed, this appeared to be an oversight and they will be added to the revised version.
- Inequalities in funds available to assist with recruitment of students from underrepresented groups at each of the UNC campuses were discussed. We need to devise means of advocating for more equitable funds to meet the expectations of having a diverse student body.
- We decided that we will attempt to get Lorin Baumhover and/or Chancellor Peacock to come and listen to our conversation on the funding needs to aid us in being successful in this important area. Specific areas discussed to bring up in this conversation are: tuition waivers, financial support from the UNC System and the need for ASU to be a leader in pushing these important initiatives with the legislative body.

- Karl asked whether or not the Common Wealth Program, which waives out of state tuition fees for certain majors, applies to international students. No one had the answer to this question.
- George asked why China isn't among the countries that send students to ASU. Bob provided some reasons. Xiaorong also shared that she feels the lack of PhD programs might also be a reason. Carter said that the data from the Open Door report also includes courses of study which draw the most applicants at institutions and the lack of engineering and similar degree programs at Appalachian limits our desirability for students from China.
- It was agreed that we will send out the revised Enrollment Plan electronically and that we will edit and then vote it using the e-mail.

Fulbright Program Update – Cater shared that we have received four applications from students. Music, English, Social Studies and Food Services are the program of study in which they have interest. \$10,000 has been placed aside for academic scholarships for these students. Two of the Fulbright candidates are from Africa and two are from Costa Rica. We can now make contact with them and share what Appalachian has to offer. Admissions has a team that is contracting these four students. It was suggested that we also engage our faculty, staff and students from their home areas to aid with the recruitment process.

International Faculty and Staff to aid with recruitment – Rachel agreed to send out a request to international faculty and staff members to create a list for the Office of Admissions and OIED that indicates those willing to aid with the recruitment of international students. The list that she prepares will include whether or not they speak other languages and if they are willing to use these linguistic skills in the recruitment process.

International Students to aid with recruitment – Tim agreed to send out a request to our international students to create a list for the Office of Admissions and OIED that indicates those willing to aid with the recruitment of international students. The list that he prepares will include whether or not they speak other languages and if they are willing to use these linguistic skills in the recruitment process.

Future activity - We would like to view the CD Rom that OIED has at this time. Bob shared that INTAPP received a grant from the Parent Association to create a new CD Rom that chronicles the success of ASU students who travel abroad.

English Language Services in Charlotte- Carter stated that students from this program had been invited to attend the Admissions Reception held in Charlotte. This program is housed at Queens University. Paul shared more about the potential that this partnership holds. Bob provided more information about our relationship with them and the fact that we were the first university to not require students who complete their program to take the TOFEL.

Discussion on In-State Waivers – We discussed the fact that if an international student receives an assistantship, and then they must be granted an in-state waiver. This is for students who have a status F visa. We talked about the need to gain more of these waivers. Bob shared that ½ of the available waivers are awarded to international students. Concerns with the number of allocations of waivers issued to student athletes vs. the number allocated to other units were discussed.

Strategic Plan – We decided on the following items as areas of concern that we would like to submit to the appropriate subcommittees working on the strategic plan:

- Support for faculty and staff to work on terminal degrees.
- Scholarships for students to study abroad, particularly those with high financial need. (Bob indicated that the SGA had passed legislation several years ago supporting a \$1 fee for each student to go into a fund to help fund such scholarships. Tracey agreed to check on this as support documentation)
- Creation of more masters and terminal degree programs, which will attract more international graduate students.
- As engineering is a high demand major by both NC residents and international students, we should explore the feasibility of strengthening our pre-major programs for our campus. The same was said of environmental sciences.