

CSM International Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

2:30 – 3:45 pm

10-431 City View B

Present: Sue An, Sandra Stefani Comerford, Young-Min Kim, Ludmila Prisecar, Christine Su, Kalina Tabatt, Henry Villareal, Chris Woo

Absent: Jennifer Hughes, Danni Redding Lapuz, Jan Roecks, Jing Wu

Summary Notes for November meeting

The notes from the November are not yet available. Danni Redding Lapuz will distribute them when she returns from abroad.

Updates:

New IEC Committee Members: Kalina Tabatt will replace Renee Bu as the library representative, and Ludmila Prisecar from the budget office/business services has joined the committee.

New staff: There is a new staff member in the International Student Center: Silvana Grima (Office Assistant II), who started in January 2016.

World Village recap: As part of International Education Week, the first “World Village” event was held on November 18, 2015. The event featured different activities categorized under **World Talk** (lectures and interactive presentations), **World View** (films, dance, musical performance, etc.), **World Taste** (sampling of foods from different cultures), and **World Do** (peace wall, calligraphy, string art, gamelan, etc.). Led in large part by the International Club, DIAG: Diversity in Action Group, ASCSM, Cultural Awareness Board, and the international student ambassadors, the event attracted dozens of domestic and international students, staff, and faculty. It should become an annual event.

Admissions: CSM received 400 applications for Spring 2016. This represents a 69% increase in applications over Spring 2015. Of these, 217 (54%) were accepted. The remaining 183 (46%) include incomplete, duplicate, and withdrawn applications and those who applied but were not F-1 students so were referred to admissions and records. No complete applications were denied. As of the IEC meeting date, 143 applications in various stages of completion for Fall 2016 had been received. ISC anticipates upwards of 500 total applications for Fall 2016.

Orientation/registration: CSM held two orientations for Spring 2016. In December 2015, 34 students attended; in January 2016, 104 students attended. There were also 13 late arrivals who missed both orientations. The total number of NEW enrolled students was 151, but between the start of the semester and the IEC meeting date there were several students who left, transferred, or were terminated. As of the meeting date, there were 145 new students.

Enrollment data: (New Students): The majority of new students are from China (58.6%), with many new students from Nepal (15.9%). There was a slight increase in students from South Korea, who comprised 4.9% of new spring enrollments. The remaining students (20.6%) were from various countries.

Registration challenges: In registering for Spring 2016, students found that ESL 828 and ESL 400 were closed or had long wait lists; Math 251 was also closed with long wait lists before a new T/TH section was added. CHEM 192 was also challenging. Interestingly, one committee member noted that there was room in ESL 828 classes, especially over the noon hour; however, students were either unaware of this option (WebSmart said the classes were closed) or were unable to take them due to scheduling.

Focus group outcomes: In Fall 2015, 3 focus groups were conducted by international student ambassadors. Each focus group had 2 leaders, one facilitator and one note-taker. One focus group was conducted in Chinese. The total number of participants (respondents) was 23 (10 male, 13 female). Top issues mentioned by students included housing and transportation, and cost of living.

Housing: There is a new housing coordinator, Julnar Msalam, with an office based at Cañada. She attended our January orientation and we have been referring students to her.

Spring Events:

Workshops: Numerous workshops have been held or are being scheduled, including on-campus employment workshops – those held on February 2 and 8 were well attended (40+ in first one and 25+ in second one). Another workshop is scheduled for February 11. Other workshops on the calendar include a tax workshop for international students to be presented by Raymond Chow, SMCCD Chief Financial Officer (originally scheduled for March 3; now changed to March 11), an OPT/CPT workshop (originally scheduled for March 4; now changed to March 11), and health and wellness workshops (dates TBD). If there is a representative from Anthem available, perhaps the health and wellness sessions could also include information on the health insurance required for international students. Additionally, faculty counselors may offer a two-part workshop series to demystify the counseling process for international students, as follows: 1) *Counseling: An Introduction – How to get the most out of your counseling appointment*; and 2) *Working with your Counselor: Beyond the First Semester*. A brief proposal will be submitted to the Interim Dean of Counseling for review.

Cultural events: The Lunar New Year Event will be held on February 25, 2016, from 12:30 – 2:30pm in the Bayview Dining Area/Building 10 Plaza. Activities will include calligraphy, paper cutting, games, Lion Dance performance by CSM's own Lion Dance Team, snacks, etc. World Chat will continue in Spring. The dates for World Chat have been set for March 9, 16, and 23 and April 6, 13, and 20, and this spring's language selections are: Nepali, Tagalog, French,

Burmese, Turkish, and American Sign Language. The fall 2015 offerings were Mandarin, Thai, Portuguese, Malaysian, Swedish, and Tongan.

The International Student Ambassadors are planning a “World Gala” at the end of the spring semester (date TBD). This will be in lieu of the World Mixer, and will be a more formal event. Finally, ISC is planning to gather international students to go as a group to a CSM baseball game. We are hoping to connect with an international student who is on the baseball team to help us to coordinate. Date and time TBD.

Planning for Fall 2016:

Orientation: ISC is planning to have 3 orientations for Fall 2016, with a limit of 75 students per orientation. The orientation dates are July 18-20, July 25-27, and August 1-3, 2016. Students must RSVP. The tentative format for the orientations is as follows: Day 1: general policies and procedures, getting to know the campus (tour); Day 2: placement testing and registration; Day 3: Counseling – presentations by counselors and/or group counseling sessions. We hope to use the computer labs for Day 2; ISC will follow up and find out whether or not the dates (July 19 and 26 and August 2) each of the labs is available and at what times.

ESL classes: Given that there is a high demand for ESL classes by both domestic and international students, adding afternoon ESL classes to the schedule has been proposed and preliminarily discussed with the Dean of Language Arts.

Updates from Committee Members

No updates were presented.

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, March 8, 2016 (2:30-3:45pm)