

CSM International Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

2:30 – 3:45 pm

10-431 City View B

Present: Sue An, Sandra Stefani Comerford, Silvana Grima, Jennifer Hughes, Amir Farhan Mat Kamal (Student Rep), Ludmila Prisecar, Danni Redding Lapuz (Chair), Christine Su, Henry Villareal, Chris Woo

Absent: Janet Black, Kamran Eftekahri, Vera Fainshtein, Yaping Li, Jan Roecks, Kalina Tabatt

Summary Notes for Previous Meetings

The summary notes from the November 2016 and February 2017 meetings were distributed to committee members for review and tentatively approved. Committee members will review them in more detail and respond with any changes, corrections, etc.

Updates:

Application Update:

Applications for Fall 2017: There are fewer applications overall (N=211; 196 F-1 applications) compared to the same time in the application period for the Spring 2017 and Fall 2016 semesters, but they are steadily coming in. The February 2017 totals (N=59) were down 26% compared to applications in February 2016 (N=80). We will have to wait to see if there is an effect on the actual arrivals/enrollees for Fall 2017. Uncertainty about visa extension and/or holdups at the airport could possibly affect enrollment for new students and retention of current students.

Professional Development:

Chris attended the NAFSA Academy in Atlanta, GA. Some of the topics covered included trends and best practices in international education. People of varying backgrounds and types of institutions attended, which allowed for differing perspectives.

Danni serves as the community college representative for NAFSA Region XII and attended the regional conference at University of San Francisco on March 13. Topics discussed included the incidence of international students who were asked questions about school building names, mascots, professors' names, etc. H1B and OPT (work-related) requests may undergo additional scrutiny before approval.

Open Doors Report:

Danni submitted the international student census survey data for the Open Doors report (Institute of International Education). If committee members would like a copy of the report, please contact Danni.

World Chat:

World Chat has had 3 sessions: Burmese, Swiss-German, and Swahili. They have been well-attended, attracting more staff and faculty, and IEP has received positive feedback about the diversity of World Chats. The next World Chat will be Hindi on March 15, followed by Swedish on March 22 and finally Indonesian on March 29.

Global Speaker Series:

The Global Speaker Series started on March 7. The first speaker was Jerry McCann, who presented "Economic Development: A Peace-Building Perspective (Guatemala and Somalia)." The turn-out was excellent with over 100 attendees at the first event. Several faculty who have adopted the Global Speaker Series into their courses were in attendance. The series will be on Tuesdays through April 11, and will cover climate and environment, cultural identity, global health, and arts, media and social change.

World Gala:

The second annual World Gala will be held on Friday, April 21. The theme is Enchanted World. There will be a talent showcase, musical performance/band, a fashion show, and global snacks. Auditions for the talent showcase are currently underway.

Fall 2017 Orientation:

There are currently 3 orientations scheduled for Fall 2017: July 24-26, July 31 – Aug 2, and August 7-9. We may have an additional orientation earlier in the summer geared toward transfer students, but we will need to wait to see how many students respond to the inquiry. Most new students will have their visa interviews in April/May.

As with previous orientations, we plan to pre-assign placement testing and counseling times. However, Carol will be out for some of the orientation dates so some students' testing/counseling may be postponed. The classrooms (10-195) have been reserved for the first day of each orientation, and Christina is working on reserving the computer labs for registration.

Discussion Items:

Student Enrollment Data:

The total number of enrolled students for Spring 2017 is 712, an increase of 65 over Fall 2016 (647). The total Spring 2017 enrollment for the SMCCD is 1105 (Canada = 142; Skyline = 251). Of the 712 at CSM, 41% are female and 59% are male; 20% are new students and 80% are continuing students. Fifty-four countries are represented, with the majority from China (N=421). CSM has experienced a 578% increase in International Student Enrollment in five years.

Business (& related fields) and STEM are the most popular majors, with 273 and 275 students declaring those majors, respectively. There is a high number of CIS majors (114). International students on an F-1 visa who are CIS majors find it challenging to schedule their classes because of the 9-credit in-person

requirement, as many CIS classes are online. Generally speaking, many computer science majors are students may be working in the field and prefer online classes, but hopefully there will be more in-person CIS classes added to the schedule.

Retention Report:

There are currently 86 students on probation and/or dismissal (Probation 1 = 55; Probation 2 = 25; Dismissal = 6). The 86 represent about 12% of the overall international student population, up from 8.1% in Fall 2016. Christina has been meeting with students on dismissal and probation 2 to create academic success plans. IEP is working on developing a policy on how long to continue to support I-20s for students who have not shown significant (or any) academic progress.

New Space/New Leadership:

IEP will be moving to another, larger space in Building 10. The exact date of the move is uncertain, but may occur during spring break. Henry Villareal and Jennifer Hughes will both be retiring sometime in August. They will be dearly missed.

Approve International Education Policies:

IEP is developing a Policy and Procedure Manual. As the number of international students grows, having such a manual will prove incredibly helpful, particularly in determining a course of action in what at present are indeterminate/"gray areas."

The committee approved the following policies, which were distributed for review at the February meeting:

CSM International Policy Process: #1 – English Proficiency Policy

An English Language Proficiency Admissions Policy document was distributed to the committee, listing the required scores for English Proficiency. Of note is a new test called EIKEN, which is popular in Japan. Committee members also received a list of the countries that have English as an official language and the language of instruction in higher education; applicants from those countries are considered qualified for admission in terms of proof of English proficiency.

CSM International Policy Process: #2 – Bank Verification of Funds/Financial Data Addendum Policy

A second document addressing bank verification of funds was distributed. Of note was the list of acceptable documents (e.g., bank letter, certificate of deposit) and the related list of unacceptable documents (screenshot of an online bank account, illiquid assets such as real estate).

With each meeting, additional documents will be provided to the IEC for review and comment.

Ad Hoc Committee:

Jennifer is facilitating an ad hoc committee for faculty to discuss strategies for helping international students to best learn and succeed. More details to follow.

District International Education Advisory Committee:

Salesforce:

Chris, Silvana, and Danni continue to attend meetings related to the imminent launch of Salesforce. The exact launch date is uncertain, but it will be used for the fall 2017 incoming applications (there will be a crossover period since applications have already been received and processed without Salesforce in place).

New Fees:

At the district International Education Committee meeting, an updated fee structure was discussed. The new fee structure (totaling \$23,500) will take effect on April 1, 2017, and will need to be added to both online and print materials.

Local Language School Recruitment:

The three SMCCCD schools will be participating in numerous local language recruitment events throughout the Bay Area during the month of April. The admissions staff will decide which events to attend.

Updates from Committee Members:

There will be a transfer fair for all district international students on May 1. It will be held in the Bayview Dining Room from 11:00am – 1:30pm. Approximately 50 representatives from primarily partner schools will be present to provide information.

The Rise Up group is looking at having extended hours at a designated space on-campus. This is in response to feedback that students need a place during the evening hours where they can access Wi-Fi. One possibility is the business lab in Building 14; suggested hours are from 8:30pm to 12midnight Monday through Friday. The group is looking into staffing and safety/security needs.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2017