

EM International Committee Meeting & Recommendation Summaries

- Primary Topics
 - Recruitment/Admissions (GR, UG and non-credit)
 - Major Issues Identified: Recruitment process and resources; reserved housing (lack of on-line system); absence of enrollment targets for undergraduate, graduate, and non-degree international students.
 - The committee explored specific enrollment targets be set for undergraduate and graduate students. The suggestion was made that we could enroll up to 200 freshman and/or transfer international students without overly stressing our existing infrastructure (we currently enroll approximately 50 new students each year), although this would require more efficient and helpful service to the students who do enroll.
 - Graduate students make up the bulk of our international student population. The committee felt that we are close to, or at, the limit of the number of international graduate students for whom we can provide support with stipends and tuition waivers.
 - Transition, Orientation, and Academic Support.
 - Major Issues Identified: data needed on causes for attrition, graduation rates for international students and transfer rates for ELC students; need for stronger international alumni connections.
 - It is recommended that a recruitment and retention committee be assembled to review progress in both of these areas on a quarterly basis. The chair of this committee should be an individual who is not directly connected with any of the international student service offices.
 - Services
 - Major Issues Identified: A one-stop shop for all international student services; a comprehensive calendar of actions; a comprehensive web-site for international students; advising and mentoring needs; enhanced social support network; adequate health insurance; ELC need for more access to classroom space.

Recommendations:

1. One organization with one location for all international student services and international education services, across the entire spectrum. The person in charge should be at the Dean or Associate Vice Provost level, and will have the responsibility for:
 - a. Strategic planning for the recruitment and retention of international students
 - b. Coordination of services directed toward the international student population
 - c. Ensuring regular and effective communication among the various offices that serve international students
 - d. Creation of a Master Calendar of events for incoming international students.
 - e. Creation and oversight of a comprehensive web portal and associated printed materials to provide international students with easy access to resources
 - f. Development and oversight of all international MOU's

- g. Oversight of study abroad and international exchange programs
 - h. Preparation of comprehensive annual reports on international activities
 - i. Development of an internal advisory committee to review recruitment and retention of international students, and an external advisory board to forge links with the local community
2. Colleges should set target enrollment numbers for undergraduate and graduate international students, and work with International Admissions to achieve those targets. International undergraduate numbers could be increased by at least 10% across the university as a whole, maybe considerably more.
 3. Access to more classroom space is needed to accommodate anticipated ELC growth. Access to university housing for part time ELC students is desirable.
 4. Recruitment of an International Admissions Counselor in the International Admissions Office.
 5. The Graduate Teaching Assistant workshops should specifically address the needs of international students.
 6. Creation of an effective mentoring network for international students is desirable and should include activities that bring together international alumni, faculty, staff, and students in informal as well as formal settings.

Current and ongoing initiatives are:

1. Revision of the pre-arrival and international student handbooks and the Arrivals Assistance program by Office of International Programs, International Student Services, and Office of Intercultural Relations.
2. Development of website through Office of Housing that will address questions from international students, from pre-arrival to arrival.
3. Development of Master Calendar of important events for arriving international students.
4. Recruitment of an International Admissions Counselor to focus on recruitment via international travel and “arm chair” recruitment.
5. Undergraduate and graduate Bridge courses in ELC are now offered for non-degree credit.