

**University Senate**  
**International Affairs Committee**  
**October 28, 2014**  
**TIME: 1:00 - 2:30 PM**  
**LOCATION: Strong Hall Room 45 Conference Room**

The FY-15 International Affairs Committee convened at 01:00 PM in 45 Strong Hall, Professor **Geraldo Sousa**, Chair, presiding. Members present were **Antha Cotten-Spreckelmeyer**, Humanities & Western Civilization; **Glenn Adams**, Psychology; **Peter Haney**, Center for Latin American Studies, Unclassified Representative; student representative, **Andres Hernandez**; and ex-officio committee member, **Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco**, Associate Provost, International Programs.

Also in attendance were: **Sara Rosen**, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; **Frank Farmer**, First and Second Year English Director, Department of English; **Todd Fritch**, Managing Director, KU Academic Accelerator Program (KUAAP); **John Dahlstrand**, Student Services Director, KU Academic Accelerator Program (KUAAP); **Mark Algren**, Director, Applied English Center (AEC); and **Mary McGuinness**, Interim Director, Applied English Center (AEC).

The agenda was reviewed and there was a brief overview of the International Affairs Committee Charges.

**KU Academic Accelerator Program (KUAAP) & KU/Shorelight Partnership Reports**

Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco gave an overview of the new KU Academic Accelerator Program. It is being built into the university to bring in highly talented, university-ready international students. Students entering the program must have a 2.5 high school GPA, college-prep high school curriculum, and must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. KUAAP students are tested on their English, like non-KUAAP students, and assessments are made on their English language proficiency. They must have a Level 4 English proficiency for admittance to the KUAAP. If not, they can enter into the Pre-KUAAP and receive instruction at the Applied English Center before entering the KUAAP. The KUAAP students take courses that include English language, technology, environmental studies, American studies, communications, humanities & western civilization, math, English composition, and a course in political science, biology, or history. A new UNIV program is also being developed and students will have an academic-related course each semester they are here. The contract for this program was received in March and International Recruitment and Undergraduate Admissions, International Student Services, and the Applied English Center have all been involved in the process. There were 71 applicants for this fall, with 61 students being accepted. Of the 61 students, 57 came to KU this fall, with 30 students in the KUAAP and 27 students entering the Pre-KUAAP. The average high school GPA of the group is 3.45. Thirty additional students are expected to enter the program in the spring and about 15 students for Summer 2015. Within three to four years, we are in hopes of cohorts consisting of 600-800 students. Nearly 80 percent of the current students are from China, but there is the expectation of more geographic diversity in the future after we have been in the market for longer.

Antha Cotten-Spreckelmeyer is serving as the Interim Academic Director (coordinating position) for the KUAAP. Her duties include working with faculty in CLAS to set up courses for AAP students, scheduling

classes, working with course coordinators, and assessment of the academic side of the program. There are two different course models that the students take: Dedicated courses that are exclusive to these students, such as UNIV 101, and Integrated courses, such as math, where students are integrated into the general KU population. The assessment plan used for the program has been modeled after the one used by First Year Experience. The experiences of these students seem to be very typical of incoming students. They are a very capable group.

Mark Algren and Mary McGuinness reported on the Applied English Center's Involvement. The AEC faculty worked on KUAAP course design and work closely with Antha on scheduling courses. They are currently teaching three KUAAP courses: Grammar, Reading & Writing, and Listening & Speaking. They will retest AAP students again in December, May and the end of their first year at KU to see where students are with their English skills. The AEC meets with instructors in courses to see what's going well and what changes could be made. They are also providing a weekly attendance report to John's office for the pre-AAP students.

Todd Fritch is the Managing Director of the KUAAP. He stated that there are two key points that make the KUAAP different from other programs on the market. First, the measure of success is by student outcomes. The KUAAP is invested in student success through graduation and are targeting 90 percent graduation rates. Secondly, they are working to interweave this program into the university. The KUAAP has a Steering committee that is made up of stakeholders from both KU and Shorelight. The goal for this fall was 60 students. There were 61 students enrolled, with 57 attending, so it was a successful first semester. The KUAAP has a budget goal of 35 students for spring, which we are well on the way to meeting. So far, 83 provisional offers have been made for spring and 10 deposits have been received. There is a goal of 15 students for the pilot summer semester. For next fall, 220-225 students are anticipated. The KUAAP plans to continue to nurture students after their first year and follow them through their academic career at KU. There was discussion about the profiles of the students. Todd reported that these students are highly qualified academically and must have access to means to fund their education. Three students who didn't need to be in the program have opted in for the cultural aspects. KUAAP is able to reach more markets than KU recruiting could on their own, with the hopes of increasing diversity of international students at KU. There was also some discussion of money being set aside for possible future scholarships for students who do not have the means.

John Dahlstrand reported that the goals of the program are student success, retention, and graduation rates. As Student Services Director, John is constantly developing activities and events for students. Some of these have included watching football, movie nights, talent shows, and field trips. The program strives to integrate the KUAAP students with other international students and domestic students, as opposed to segregating them. Not all of the KUAAP programs are exclusive to their students and they also encourage the AAP students to attend other activities on campus with non-KUAAP students. The KUAAP has talked with housing about having AAP students room with American students. They are also connecting with the AAAC and Advising Center to make students aware of campus resources. Most students are doing very well, but some may be struggling. Culture shock is setting in for a few of them. The AAP is working to create a student leadership council where a democratic process will be used to elect student leaders. This group will help generate ideas and activities.

**The next meeting of the International Affairs Committee will be Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the conference room in 45 Strong Hall.**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.**