

International Affairs Committee FY2023 Final Report

Report on Specific Charges

Specific Charge 1: ACE Internationalization Lab Peer Review Report

The International Affairs Committee will review the final ACE Internalization Lab peer review report and recommendations and provide feedback. Based on the peer experts' report, the International Affairs Committee will provide recommendations to SenEx about how the International Affairs Committee and SenEx can be more engaged in and contribute more to KU's internalization and globalization efforts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This charge and other charges of the University Senate International Affairs Committee are closely aligned to Jayhawk Rising. It is a long but steady process to meet the goals for the betterment of the international community. There are set steps and timelines involved to meet these goals that are aligned with Jayhawk Rising. The Committee has learned that the ACE lab is no longer active but has discussed some of the Lab report's findings.
- Although the steering committee for the Office of the Provost's ACE Internationalization Lab is no longer active and we, the International Affairs Committee members and its chair, were not directly involved in working with the Lab, we are still involved in the ACE Lab's action plans, and the implementation and feedback to follow as the Committee's ex-officio, Charlie Bankart, is keeping us updated about the report as well as the progress made.

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to check with the Office of KUIA to keep track of the progress being made in relation to the ACE Internationalization Lab report.
- The International Affairs Committee can invite a guest speaker from KUIA to meet with the International Affairs Committee and update the Committee on the implementation of the ACE goals aligned with Jayhawk Rising and listen to concerns and provide feedback to the KUIA guest speaker and other KUIA representatives.

- **BACKGROUND & FINDINGS**

The Committee's ex-officio, Charlie Bankart, was a member of the Steering Committee of the Office of the Provost's ACE Internationalization Lab. He was present in every International Affairs Committee meeting and provided the members with a regular update on the steps taken for implementing the different goals outlined in the Lab report as well as sharing a final report of the Administrative Leadership Structure and Staffing Subcommittee via Teams.

The Administrative Leadership Structure and Staffing Subcommittee evaluated various aspects of internationalization, such as allocation of sufficient funds to continue proper staffing, convenient support, orientation, and other resources in order to achieve growth in international structures supporting internationally focused academic and research programs and, international students, faculty, and staff and to integrate international and cross-cultural dimensions into KU's diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) work.

The ACE Lab Subcommittee conducted interviews with outside stakeholders such as the Kansas Department of Commerce, International Relations Council of Kansas City, City of Lawrence, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, World Trade Center of Kansas City as well as regional educators connected to KU's Title VI Area Studies Centers, internal stakeholders, including staff and faculty, to evaluate the collaboration of the Offices outside KU International Affairs. The results of these interviews indicated faculty and staff need more easily accessible support, funding for research and training, dedicated support staff, more readily available resources with more visibility, and obtain more clarity to better serve KU's international community. Endowment funds are not allocated towards international affairs; however, the general fund has a nice percentage of funds dedicated to the KUIA office that could be directed towards the aforementioned needs.

The International Support Services (ISS) offers centralized support for international students. However, there is not adequate communication and coordination of ISS with many other offices, so they must develop their own independent solutions to address these challenges.

KU is seen as a major resource and anchor for international engagement and economic development, especially in terms of workforce development toward becoming more globally competitive. KUIA also works closely with Analytics, Institutional Research, and Effectiveness (AIRE) along with ISS to address institutional effectiveness in getting better services and opportunities for international students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to work with the KUIA office to obtain regular updates about the ACE Internationalization Lab and to keep track of the progress in the implementation of the recommendations provided in the Lab report to the University leadership for better services provisions, for example the international studies, research, teaching, and exchange programs, and job opportunities for KU patrons here and abroad.

- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to work with other offices like ISS to learn about their efforts in providing prompt resources and support to international students, staff, and faculty and implementing different goals outlined in the Lab report that are aligned to Jayhawk Rising, particularly those objectives that affect international students, research, teaching, and exchange. The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to share any concerns, provide feedback and follow up on a regular basis with the relevant offices to ensure that resource and support issues are being addressed.

Specific Charge 2: Recommendations from the peer experts' report

The International Affairs Committee will consider how recommendations from the peer experts' report can be implemented to align with the Jayhawks Rising strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The recommendations align with the Jayhawks Rising strategic plan.
- Ex-officio, Charles Bankart, was present in every meeting of the International Affairs Committee and apprised the Committee about any development or action needed for the international incoming students or international students who were already enrolled at KU.

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs Committee continues to work closely with the KUIA office to follow up on their latest policies and recommendations for the betterment and convenience for the students in the areas of research, teaching, job opportunities, practical trainings, exchange programs, grants, visa help, etc. and ensures KUIA's input in the review, approval, and implementation process.
- This charge should be extended to FY 2024.

BACKGROUND & FINDINGS

Although KU has an office called International Support Services (ISS) that offers centralized support for international students, there is still not adequate communication and coordination of ISS with many offices, so ISS must develop their own independent solutions for these - challenges. KU is viewed as a major resource and anchor for international engagement and economic development, especially in terms of workforce development toward becoming more globally competitive. KUIA also works closely with Analytics, Institutional Research, and Effectiveness (AIRE) along with ISS to address institutional effectiveness. For example, this year, the ISS worked on a project where they compared KU with peer institutions on the fee structure for international students and services provided to international students, including orientations, visa help, transportation, etc. and found that KU has not increased the fee for the last few years but is providing better support to the students. In addition, the ISS office is in the process of hiring more support staff for which they have included a proposed minimal increase in the international student fee.

Recommendations:

- The International Affairs Committee should ask the ISS and KUIA offices about changes if any made to fees, the hiring of added support staff, funding efforts, and job opportunities that would impact the fee international students pay.

Specific Charge 3: Global Challenges

International Affairs Committee needs to continue to monitor events and global challenges like war, women rights, economic insecurities, and how these are impacting or being experienced by our international students. We as a committee need to communicate with international student representatives on the committee to learn about the challenges and concerns of international students.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This committee has addressed the needs of students to the current global issues. We have discussed about how we have supported these students and so far, and what sort of support has been given to these students who are deeply affected by current situations in their home countries, such as Iran and Ukraine. Charles Bankart from the KUIA office elaborated on the financial support KU has provided to Ukrainian students. KUIA, the Language Training Center, and the Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies are also helping the military and students at Fort Leavenworth with Ukrainian language and culture, which supplies jobs to Ukrainian refugee students. Humanitarian Tuition, which allows a student to be considered for Kansas residence, is on the docket for the spring of next academic year. Charlie Bankart has also pointed the committee to the KU Fact Book which is a resource that can be utilized to know more about the data related to the international population by country.
- The committee has formed a subcommittee to develop and execute a survey meant to gauge the needs of international students at KU.

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs committee needs to monitor the progress or action taken for the analysis report from the survey results.
- This charge should be extended to FY 2024 and beyond.

BACKGROUND & FINDINGS

The survey consists of 68 questions with a 5-point scale (No importance, Slight importance, Medium importance, Strong importance, Very strong importance), of which 12 questions are for Charge 3 and 56 questions are for Charge 4. A total of 148 students responded to the survey, of which approximately 38% were undergraduates (mostly 1-3 years) and 62% were graduate students (mostly 1st year). Respondents were also asked, based on their rating, to identify the top three needs, concerns or resources students are seeking and why these are important to them. The survey questions are listed in Appendix of this report.

The 12 questions for Charge 3 are listed below with the mean values in parentheses. Items are listed by mean values in descending order. No item shows a mean value equal to or higher than 4 (Strong importance) except Economic insecurities (Mean 4.09).

1. Economic insecurities (Mean 4.09)
2. Pandemic preparation and response (please only respond to this question if you were attending or about to attend KU in 2020-2021) (Mean 3.93)
3. Access to healthcare (Mean 3.91)
4. Mental health (Mean 3.77)
5. Freedom of speech (Mean 3.60)
6. Climate change (Mean 3.46)
7. Freedom of the press (Mean 3.32)
8. Women's rights (Mean 3.16)
9. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and others (i.e., LGBTQIA+) rights (Mean 3.02)
10. Men's rights (Mean 2.83)
11. Refugee crisis (Mean 2.79)
12. Are you reading each item? [yes = 1, no = 2] attention check (Mean 1.02)

Top 3 needs, concerns or resources students are seeking relate to:¹

1. Mental health
2. Health care
3. Women's rights
4. LGBT rights
5. Inflation / Economic insecurity
6. Reverse racism
7. Climate change
8. Refugee crisis
9. Freedom of speech
10. Disconnection from other departments

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Overall, economic insecurities, mental health and access to health care appear to be most significant concerns. The International Affairs committee will continue to work with other offices to make sure that these concerns are alleviated.
- The committee will make concrete suggestions next FY.

¹ There are other needs, concerns or resources students are seeking but we report here only those that are directly related with the global challenges.

Specific Charge 4: Elaborate Survey with the International Students

International Affairs Committee will conduct surveys or interviews with international students about their perceptions of inflation, rising housing, food cost, safety across campus, health and well-being, apartments and resident halls, the resources they are seeking etc. to identify areas of need and focus from KU.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The International Affairs Committee has created a survey for international undergraduate and graduate students to gauge their concerns, challenges, feedback, inconveniences, requirements etc. The committee chair, according to the protocol, had the survey first approved by the office of Analytics, Institutional Research, and Effectiveness (AIRE) and then by the office of Dr. Eron Memaj in International Support Services (ISS). ISS distributed the survey directly to every enrolled international student at KU.
- The committee chair on behalf of the International Affairs Committee reached out to the Provost's Office and then on their recommendation, reached out to all the KU Deans individually with a request to reinforce the importance of students using their voices to tell us about their needs and experiences by amplifying the survey. This way faculty and staff received the information from the Deans' offices as well as from ISS. Reminders were sent as well as the link and QR code to the survey were posted on the KU social media by the committee members.

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs committee needs to monitor the progress or action taken for the analysis report from the survey results.
- This charge should be extended to FY 2024 and beyond so that the committee can guide the university in creating more systems to support students.

BACKGROUND & FINDINGS

The survey consists of 68 questions with a 5-point scale (No importance, Slight importance, Medium importance, Strong importance, Very strong importance), of which 12 questions are for Charge 3 and 56 questions are for Charge 4. A total of 148 students responded to the survey, of which approximately 38% were undergraduates (mostly 1-3 years) and 62% were graduate students (mostly 1st year). Respondents were also asked, based on their rating, to identify the top three needs, concerns or resources students are seeking and why these are important to them. The survey questions are listed in Appendix of this report.

Among the 56 questions for Charge 4, the following 23 concerns appear to be significant (they are 4.0 (Strong importance) or higher in mean value):

1. Support in seeking employment after graduation (Mean 4.58)
2. More equitable salaries for the three Gs (i.e., graduate assistantships, graduate teaching assistantships, graduate research assistantships) (Mean 4.55)

3. Assistance with OPT and CPT - OPT CPT (Mean 4.52)
4. Guidance or information on grants, scholarships, and other sources of funding – Funding (Mean 4.49)
5. Visa assistance (Mean 4.42)
6. Providing more graduate teaching assistantships and graduate assistantships (Mean 4.41)
7. Legal services/assistance (Mean 4.4)
8. Opportunities for International students at career fairs (Mean 4.4)
9. Academic Programming (Mean 4.39)
10. Housing Costs (Mean 4.31)
11. Affordability of require health insurance (Mean 4.31)
12. Affordable travel to and from KU (e.g., airport shuttles) (Mean 4.30)
13. Mental Health -CPAS (Mean 4.28)
14. Physical Health-Recreation Physical Health (Mean 4.28)
15. Library Resources, study materials (Mean 4.27)
16. Public transportation within the Lawrence community - Public Transportation (Mean 4.24)
17. Safety across the KU Campus (Mean 4.23)
18. Public transportation beyond or outside the Lawrence community (Mean 4.19)
19. Off-Campus Housing (Mean 4.17)
20. Food costs (Mean 4.17)
21. Inflation, i.e., rise in prices, such as rise in gas prices (Mean 4.14)
22. Assistance with plans to come to KU (Mean 4.05)
23. Ability to access temporary accommodations (Mean 4.03)

The Top 15 most urgent items based on the number of “very important” responses are:

1. Support in seeking employment after graduation (73.55%)
2. Assistance with OPT and CPT - OPT CPT (72.73%)
3. More equitable salaries for the three Gs (i.e., graduate assistantships, graduate teaching assistantships, graduate research assistantships) (71.05%)
4. Guidance or information on grants, scholarships, and other sources of funding (70%)
5. Providing more graduate teaching assistantships and graduate assistantships (65.79%)
6. Legal Services - Legal Assistance (65.38%)
7. Affordable travel to and from KU (e.g., airport shuttles) (64%)
8. Opportunities for international student career fairs (62.81%)
9. Visa assistance (61.90%)
10. Public transportation within the Lawrence community - Public Transportation (61%)
11. Academic programming (59.62%)
12. Housing Cost (59.5%)
13. Public transportation beyond or outside the Lawrence community (59%)
14. Safety across the KU campus - Public Safety (58.04%)
15. Affordability of required health insurance - Health Insurance (57.85%)

Top 3 needs, concerns or resources students are seeking relate to:

1. Employment assistance after graduation
2. Funding while at KU, equitable fee like in state students, grants, scholarships etc. opportunities.
3. Assistance with OPT and CPT
4. Visa assistance
5. Legal services and assistance
6. Academic programming
7. Affordability of the services (Health Insurance, transportation to and from airport, KUMC to KU)
8. Housing cost
9. Mind and physical health, pool on campus
10. Library resources and study materials
11. Safety on campus

Overall, the common themes that appear across the survey relate to issue of:

1. Funding
2. Employment
3. Legal Services (OPT, CPT, visas, and other international related legal assistance)
4. Inflation
5. Housing and food costs
6. Transportation KU-MCI; KUMC-KU

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Overall, employment, funding, and visa/legal assistants appear to be most significant concerns. The International Affairs committee needs to continue to work with other offices to make sure that these concerns are alleviated.
- Specific recommendations are to
 - Assess financial assistance available and prompt application of financial assistance.
 - Track student debt.
 - Increase funding and transparency of the selection process of international student scholarships.
 - Assess accessible and affordable travel to the KC Metro and MCI.
 - Improve the effectiveness and amiability of ISS and issues related to visas, CPT/OPT, and affordable health insurance.

Specific Charge 5: The International Student Support Services

The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to work with international student support services to identify international students' needs in programming and building communities and support international supportive services.

Note: Specific Charge 5 is similar in content to Standing Charge 2.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The International Affairs Committee discussed how to bring more awareness of resources available to international students. Methods identified included individual emails, newsletters, social media, and other relevant platforms. Steps can be taken to advertise resources available to international students across the Lawrence and Edwards campuses, so students have access to these resources and feel more at home. We need to prioritize the ways to make internationalization a part of Jayhawk Rising.
- The International Affairs Committee had a guest speaker, Dr. Eron Memaj, the new Director of International Support Services (ISS). He discussed some of the services ISS provides, such as international admissions, recruitment, and other important services and supports. Through our conversation with Dr. Memaj, the Committee developed a better understanding of the supports and work of the ISS office. Basically, ISS is an advocacy department who works with the rest of the University to ensure services for international students are being provided. ISS provides resources and can share information with international students on a regular basis in the form of a newsletter.
- The International Support Services is providing solid support to international students who come to KU to pursue their academic studies. ISS provides international students with administrative support for admissions and recruitment (mainly undergraduates), immigration advising and compliance, and they make sure students comply with regulations and have the right documentation for their visas. ISS also helps students follow laws and regulations.
- The resources provided by the ISS office from the website <https://iss.ku.edu/> are hidden and an individual must click on each resource to get the targeted URL and the back button takes the individual to the home page instead of the menu. These problems have been reported to Dr. Memaj and the IT staff. Below are the links for the individual resources:

- Childcare: <https://iss.ku.edu/childcare>
- Conversational English Support: <https://iss.ku.edu/conversational-english-support>
- Driver's License: <https://iss.ku.edu/drivers-license>
- Housing
On Campus Housing: <https://iss.ku.edu/on-campus-housing>
Off Campus Housing: <https://iss.ku.edu/off-campus-housing>
Renter's Insurance: <https://iss.ku.edu/renters-insurnace>

Note: 'The Renter's Insurance link may get updated, so please check the menu from the ISS website <https://iss.ku.edu/>'

- Identity Theft: <https://iss.ku.edu/identity-theft>
- Safety:

Campus Safety/Alerts: <https://iss.ku.edu/campus-safety>

Police: <https://iss.ku.edu/police>

SafeRide and SafeBus: <https://iss.ku.edu/saferide-and-safebus>

When to call 911: <https://iss.ku.edu/when-call-911>

- Scams and Fraud: <https://iss.ku.edu/scams-and-fraud>
- Scholarship Information: <https://iss.ku.edu/scholarship-information>
- School Enrollment for Children: <https://iss.ku.edu/school-enrollment-children>

- Social Security Number Application: <https://iss.ku.edu/social-security-number-application>
- Taxes: <https://iss.ku.edu/taxes>
- Training for KU Departments: <https://iss.ku.edu/training-ku-departments>
- Transportation:
 - Airport to Lawrence: <https://iss.ku.edu/airport-lawrence>
 - Cars: <https://iss.ku.edu/cars>
 - KU Parking: <https://parking.ku.edu/>
 - Public Transportation: <https://iss.ku.edu/public-transportation>
 - Taxis/Uber: <https://iss.ku.edu/taxisuber>

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to check in with the ISS office on a regular basis to keep track of ISS's distribution of resources to international students.
- The ISS office should include all Deans on the Lawrence and Edwards campuses in their communication efforts to raise awareness about the supports and resources available to international students. The Deans could then keep faculty members who work with international students updated on the supports and resources available and could be more informed and could provide prompt support for international students.
- The International Affairs Committee could invite personnel from the ISS office on a regular basis to inform the Committee on any new developments impacting international students, so the Committee could provide more support to international students.

BACKGROUND & FINDINGS

The International Affairs Committee had some guest speakers, including Dr. Eron Memaj (twice) and Regina Sherrill, office manager of ISS, (one time) to learn about ISS contributions and supports, but also to raise concerns, to obtain answers/solutions to the Committee's concerns raised, to give feedbacks etc. We also had Ex Officio Charles Bankart, Senior Internationalization Officer from KUIA office (<https://international.ku.edu>) who also provided good explanations to the Committee's concerns. Examples: We raised the concern about the decline in the number of students coming to the U.S. to enroll in higher education institutions international students are choosing other destinations like the UK and, Canada to study due to many factors such as the overall inflated cost, less desirable visa/sanctions, lack of job opportunities, etc. In addition, some international students feel less welcomed in the U.S. The Committee asked about any ISS plans to address these concerns. Charles Bankart pointed out that although there is a decline, the U.S. is still the number one destination for international students to pursue their higher education studies.

In comparison to the U.S., other countries prioritize international student mobility and opportunities, and they have progressive immigration policies related to post degree employment. There is a smooth process toward employment and permanent residency for international students that has been incorporated into their immigration laws. To understand this, Charles Bankart gave an example from the U.K., when Theresa May, then the Prime Minister, removed the post-completion employment authorization for international students and they saw

student numbers plummet by 75%. When reversed, they saw, over a 5-year period, a rebound. People want flexibility and doors to be open. In the U.S., STEM fields, where there is a 3-year optional practical training (OPT) opportunity upon completion of higher education studies, those areas are seeing international student growth. Immigration policy is a crucial factor here.

The positive news is that KU and the State of Kansas have a different sense of safety and security where international students come and, they tend to stay due to a perception that the heartland is welcoming and safe. KU has bucked some of the national trends and we are seeing growth in the number of international students. In the next two or three years, we will see the number of international students increasing on the KU campus. The Applied English Center on the KU campus is a big draw for international students. Although U.S. education is expensive, many graduate students at KU are funded, especially in the STEM programs.

Dr. Memaj also presented the proposed probable raise in the fee for international students to the International Affairs Committee. The members had their concerns and provided feedback from the perspective of international students. The members said that they can make suggestions but are not the decision makers concerning international student fees.

Charles Bankart also mentioned that he is collaborating with companies outside the U.S. to make a deal to give hiring priority to international students affiliated with KU who want to return to their home countries may be due to some personal reasons. In addition, he is working with the Overland Chamber of Commerce, Olathe Chamber of Commerce, big tech companies, etc. to create jobs for international students in the U.S. and help international students with visa and easy sanctions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to work with the ISS and KUIA offices to obtain regular updates about the fee structure and finalized increase in the fee structure and if need be, take necessary steps to convey back the concern and feedbacks about the changes.
- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to work with ISS and KUIA to learn about their efforts to obtain more funds, OPT, research opportunities in different fields, and job options for inside and outside the U.S. for KU degree holders.

Report on Standing Charges

1. Develop contact with the leadership of international student organizations and international student senators, and other interested parties.
2. Continue to review and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better accommodate access of International Students to supportive services.
3. As needed review and provide input on new policies that relate to international studies, research, teaching, and exchange programs.
4. Continue to assess and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better acknowledge and support international students and incorporate cross-cultural

competencies within the university's diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) mission and initiatives.

5. Review the International Student Fee and how it is utilized.

Standing Charge 1: Develop Contact with International Student Organizations

Develop contact with the leadership of the International Student Association and organizations and international student senators.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The International Affairs Committee currently has two student members. One of the graduate students is deeply involved in the international student community and has served many leadership roles in international affairs across campus and has provided many insights and made significant contributions to KU's internationalization and globalization efforts. Another student has joined the Committee this year with full involvement and provided invaluable feedback.
- The International Affairs Committee needs new student representatives after these two student members end their tenure at KU. The Committee is also aware that pushing forward the internationalization efforts at KU cannot only rely on student representatives on the Committee, but it would be important to engage international student organizations and their members.

The Committee recommends that:

- In FY24, the International Affairs Committee needs to reach out to KU international student groups (<https://ceas.ku.edu/student-organizations>) and their advisors to develop connections that outlast specific students and their tenure at the University. Examples of student groups are the International Students Association, International Student Advisory Committee, Association of Indian Students, CSSFA (Chinese Student Scholars & Friendship Association), and VSA (Vietnamese Student Association).
- The International Affairs Committee needs to ensure its key role in building a broader international community at KU and reach out to other international groups on campus, including many international faculty and staff groups, such as the Black Faculty and Staff Council and the Asian and Asian-American Faculty and Staff Council.

Standing Charge 2: International Students Access to Supportive Services

Continue to review and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better accommodate international students access to supportive services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The International Affairs Committee reached out to Dr. Eron Memaj, Director for International Support Services, to learn more about his role and his plans for supporting and assisting international students and better accommodating access to supportive services for international students (also see Specific Charge 5).
- Many thoughts and recommendations have been shared concerning international students and how to better serve them during the International Affairs Committee meetings. These thoughts and recommendations range from the role of the Committee, students' need for more cross-culturally-competent mental health services to cross-cultural competency training for faculty members and staff. However, these thoughts and recommendations mentioned are not an exhaustive list.

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs Committee continues to monitor and work with international student organizations and international students to hear their concerns and communicate with University and Senate leadership about their concerns.
- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to monitor and review the progress that the relevant offices on campus are making to address the issues that were raised during the Committee meetings and the 2023 survey on the needs, resources, and global challenges international students experience as KU students.
- The International Affairs Committee needs to continue to keep international students' unique needs and challenges in mind when making any recommendations that are relevant to international students to the Senate leadership.
- The International Affairs Committee recommends creating a survey on satisfaction/concerns/feedbacks approximately every 3 years for the current students.
- The International Affairs Committee recommends an exit survey must be created/distributed by the offices of ISS or/and KUIA for all graduating international students and make the exit report accessible to the IA committee if permissible.

Standing Charge 3: Input on New Policies

As needed, the International Affairs Committee will review and provide input on new policies that relate to international studies, research, teaching, and exchange programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

No new policies related to international studies, research, teaching, and exchange programs have been proposed in FY2023. However, the International Affairs Committee has developed and sent a survey to international students in the Spring 2023 to develop a better understanding of their needs and global challenges experienced.

The Committee recommends that:

- This standing charge will be extended to FY 2024.

Standing Charge 5: Assess DEIB Mission

Continue to assess and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better acknowledge and support international students and incorporate cross-cultural competencies within the University's diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) mission and initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging saw several transitions in leadership. Currently, many initiatives are being taken under the Office and the leadership of Dr. Nicole Hodges Persley, Vice Provost for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. The University continues to update efforts and convene stakeholders to develop and implement DEIB practices and encourages every department to get involved in the DEIB initiatives. Departments are encouraged to make DEIB one of their goals.

The Committee recommends that:

- This standing charge will be extended to FY 2024. The International Affairs Committee continues to keep abreast of KUIA office's work in collaboration with DEIB to provide a safer and more inclusive environment for the international community.
- As the KU DEIB strategic plan is aligned with Jayhawk Rising, we recommend that the International Affairs Committee create action steps and assessment tools for tracking progress and will continue to develop strategies for meeting current goals and creating new ones as dictated by the needs of the KU community.

Standing Charge 6: Review the International Student Fee

Review the International Student Fee and how it is utilized.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The International Affairs Committee has reviewed the proposed fee increase by the director of the ISS office, Dr. Eron Memaj, and provided feedback. The members understood the reasoning behind the proposal; however, the Committee suggested that the fee should be subsidized institutionally with more dedicated funds rather than putting the burden solely on international students who are already dealing with higher costs overall due to inflation. Charlie Bankart provided more information about and context on why a fee increase was needed.
- It has happened before that the International Student Advisory Committee as well as other involved international students were not consulted on any fee increase. However, this was not the case this academic year as the International Affairs Committee invited Dr. Memaj to a Committee meeting to have an open discussion on the proposed fee increase. The Committee members include two students, staff, and faculty members.

The Committee recommends that:

- The International Affairs Committee continues to monitor any increase in the international student fee and ensures that the International Student Advisory Committee as well as other involved international students are consulted on any fee increase that may need to occur.
- This standing charge will be extended to FY 2024.

Proposed FY2024 KUIA Charges

These charges are in addition to others that the University Senate and SenEx may assign to the Committee.

FY2024 Proposed Standing Charges, as amended FY2023:

1. Reach out and connect with the leadership of many international student associations and organizations and international student senators that serve different international student bodies on campus.
2. Continue to review and as needed make recommendations, such as the need to have more advertisements and displays for the awareness about these services and resources available through the ISS office. The ISS sends information about services and resources available in their newsletters but still some students are not aware of these services and resources.
3. As needed review and provide input on new policies aligned with Jayhawk Rising that are received from SenEx and the Policy Offices or other relevant departments which are meant for international students' betterment in every field, like studies, research, and academic programs as well as more funding.
4. Continue to assess and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better acknowledge and support international students and incorporate cross-cultural competencies within the University's diversity equity, inclusion and belonging (DEIB) mission and initiatives. In addition, we need to make sure about the safety of our international students and faculty.
5. Review the International Student Fee and how it is utilized as well as any other fee increases for international students and how decisions are made on fee increases.

FY2024 Proposed Specific Charges:

Support and provide recommendations from the survey feedback on international students' needs, resources, and global challenges and from the committee meetings to the offices of KUIA and ISS who then take the lead to apprise the University leadership regarding these inputs and concerns affecting international students in the areas of studies, trainings, research, teaching, job opportunities, resources aligned to the institutional priorities in Jayhawk Rising, and to objective leaders of Jayhawk Rising.

- In consultation with ISS and KUIA, continue to work to find out about supports for job opportunities for KU degree holders in the U.S. and outside the U.S., and ways the companies may prioritize international students with KU affiliation in the hiring process.

- Continue to work on obtaining information on the affordability of services like Health Insurance, transportation to and from the airport and, KUMC to KU, housing, food on campus, and other required services.
- In consultation with ISS and KUIA, continue to work on obtaining information about trainings (i.e., OPT/CPT).
- Collaborate with ISS and KUIA to identify opportunities for funding for international students while at KU, grants, scholarships, equitable fees etc. Opportunities should be equitable to in state students,
- In consultation with KUIA and ISS, find out about the DEIB initiative and support for international students and faculty members.