

**University Senate International Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes 10/27/2016 (approved 12/9/2016)**

In attendance: Celka Straughn (Chair), Melissa Birch, Kapila Silva, Manuela Gonzalez-Bueno, Alexis Jones, Seth Brooks

Excused: Susan Gronbeck-Tedsco

This was the first International Affairs Committee meeting for FY2017. Committee members introduced themselves and confirmed that Outlook would be the most efficient way to schedule future meetings. The committee also determined that we would make use of Blackboard as a way to share documents, serve as an ongoing committee archive, and for some forms of online communication.

While reviewing the year's charges members discussed relevant steps to take. One question that arose was how to learn about new policies on campus in addition to gathering the information needed to respond to the charges. Given the committee's charges (standing and specific) and various changes on campus and beyond with different aspects of international affairs, the members thought it would be useful to convene meetings with relevant faculty, students, and staff from different international units including Applied English Center, International Students Services, Study Abroad, International Recruitment and Undergraduate Admissions, and Office of International Programs. Also considered were faculty from various schools with significant representation of international students as well as units and departments with emphases on international issues such as the Center for Global and International Studies. Committee members agreed that if collecting such reports that could include issues of communication, identifying areas of frustration, and places for growth and development, these meetings should be a safe space for open discussion and confidentiality should be respected, and perhaps a contract of mutual understanding would be developed. Questions to ask might include what are faculty and student expectations for international students and international programs at KU; what are the expectations of international students and programs; and how are these currently being met and not met. It was suggested to perhaps also meet with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to find out the administration's current vision for international students and programs and perceived challenges. A list on Blackboard will be developed to identify contacts.

One possibility raised as a means to address some of the charges would be for the committee to develop a campus survey, if appropriate. Members will look into if anything already exists or has been previously conducted.

As the first charge with a deadline for December 1 was a report on the Academic Accelerator Program, members discussed what information might be useful including how global and diverse is AAP, issues of equity with regards to other KU international students, information on the new MA program.