

**THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
UNIVERSITY SENATE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
2019-2020 REPORT**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The University Senate assigned the International Affairs Committee with the following Standing and Specific Charges to focus on for the Academic Year 2019-2020.

### **FY2020 Standing charges:**

1. Develop contact with the leadership of International Student Association and organizations and international student senators.
2. Continue to review and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better accommodate access of International Student's to supportive services.
3. As needed review and provide input on new policies that relate to international research and teaching.
4. As needed review and provide input on new policies that relate to international studies, research, and teaching, received from SenEx.

### **FY2020 Specific charges:**

1. Review the committee recommendations from the FY2019 Final Report regarding Graduate Studies Admissions Policy. Meet with Graduate Studies regarding the recommendations, to determine if they are feasible.
2. Determine international student retention rate over the past three years. Compare retention rates of direct recruitment international students with Shorelight international students.
3. Request an update from the KUIA units, focusing on an assessment of the effectiveness of the new structure and responsibilities and on possible further improvements/changes.

## REPORT ON SPECIFIC CHARGES

### **SPECIFIC CHARGE ONE: Graduate Admissions Policy**

**Review the committee recommendations from the FY2019 Final Report regarding Graduate Studies Admissions Policy. Meet with Graduate Studies regarding the recommendations, to determine if they are feasible.**

#### **Executive Summary**

- The KU International Affairs' recommendations on creating flexibility in the admission policy language were discussed with the Dean of Graduate Studies.
- The office of Graduate Studies reviewed the recommendations and concluded that these cannot be implemented in their current form due to the 2012 visa regulations necessitating international students to meet all admission requirements.
- Instead, the office of Graduate Studies revised the policy draft on English Proficiency requirements according to recent changes in visa regulations that allow for flexibility in admission cases where language proficiency is a central element and the institution has the academic support structures in place for students to make the essential English proficiency gains through enrollment in English language courses.
- The Committee reviewed the policy draft and provided minor feedback for clarification.

#### **Conclusion**

- The Committee concluded that the new changes in the policy on English Proficiency are an improvement and satisfy the Committee's intentions for this charge.

### **SPECIFIC CHARGE TWO: International Student Retention**

**Determine international student retention rate over the past three years. Compare retention rates of direct recruitment international students with Shorelight international students.**

KU Analytics and Institutional Research (AIR) provided one-year retention of international first-time freshmen for the fall of 2016, 2017 and 2018. The data were disaggregated by the following criteria:

First-time Freshmen	All International
Non-Shorelight recruited	AEC Levels-1-3
	AEC Levels 4-5
	English Proficient
Shorelight recruited	AEC Levels-1-3 (PreAAP3)
	AEC Levels 4-5 (KU AAP3, KU AAP2)
	English Proficient (KUIAP)

These data were obtained by request from the University Senate International Affairs Committee (IAC). It is data that KU International Affairs (formerly Office of International Programs) had repeatedly requested and been asking to receive for several years. See Appendix B for data summary document.

The IAC concluded the data corroborate that whether students are recruited via Shorelight or directly by KU, they are doing well. The retention rates for international freshmen are similar to the retention rates for all freshmen on campus ([Retention Rates, First-time, Full-time Freshmen](#)).

The IAC also discussed the resources and supports available through the Academic Accelerator Program (AAP) to students recruited by Shorelight. The question was raised as to whether a cost/benefit analysis would be appropriate for providing AAP services for all students, as opposed to only Shorelight students.

A follow up question: are there other benefits that the data left out, such as student satisfaction? One could hypothesize that students whose parents pay for additional supports, would be more satisfied than students who are paying less, if those supports are meaningful.

Note: Shorelight furloughed their entire student service team on campus on April 21st. Four advisors were furloughed on the spot and the remaining four will be furloughed on May 15<sup>th</sup>, once grades are submitted for the courses they are currently teaching. Furloughs will be in place until September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. No planning was done in advance of the furloughs to ensure continuity of student support for program participants. Shorelight will have two staff left, a recruitment person and a program director. Approximately 80 students will continue into the summer term as active program participants. They will largely have to rely upon KU's regular student support structures. This calls into question the value of the student services Shorelight promises its program recruits if those services cannot be depended upon or guaranteed.

#### **SPECIFIC CHARGE THREE: KUIA Assessment**

**Request an update from the KUIA units, focusing on an assessment of the effectiveness of the new structure and responsibilities and on possible further improvements/changes.**

#### **Executive Summary**

- The KUIA restructuring has been highly successful, resulting in more efficient service provision, functional alignment, and awareness of KUIA services across campus units.
- KUIA plays a critical role in supporting the research, teaching, and recruiting efforts of the university that cannot be adequately sustained without central budget allocation from KU to support its mission.
- There is an urgent need for oversight of the Office of Global Operations and Security (GOS) so that KU programs can continue to foster international engagement, including faculty teaching and research collaboration and study abroad programs.

#### **The IAC recommends that the University Senate:**

- Advocate for a funding model for KUIA that supports KU's identity as an "international research university" and the wide range of mission-critical services KUIA provides.
- Require that Office of Global Operations and Security policies that may affect KU faculty, students, or KUIA units be subject to university governance through the University Senate, with the assistance of the KU International Affairs Committee.

- Recommend the elevation of the Associate Vice Provost of KUIA to a Vice Provost level, commensurate with the importance of international programs and engagement at KU.
- Consider international students when making decisions about student issues.
- Advocate for KUIA unit voices in University strategic planning efforts.

## **REPORT ON STANDING CHARGES**

### **STANDING CHARGE ONE: Develop contact with international student organizations**

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

#### **Executive Summary**

- The Committee determined in the February meeting that an email would be sent out to international student organizations to:
  - Let them know that the IAC exists and that they are not alone.
  - Request their feedback regarding needs that they feel are not being met and how the university can improve in addressing those needs.
  - Offer them an opportunity to serve on the Committee via student senate involvement and nomination.
  - If possible, provide an example of how student voices in the Committee have had an impact in campus wide initiatives.
- COVID-19 occurred before the email could be sent.

#### **Conclusion**

- The Committee suggests that this action be taken early next year via the students participating in the Committee.

### **STANDING CHARGE TWO: Access of international students to supportive services**

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

#### **Executive Summary**

- It is expected that international students have access to the same supportive services as domestic students. However, the Committee determined that there is an ongoing need to identify the support services that are not equitably being made available to international students and to recommend solutions.

### **STANDING CHARGE THREE: Input on new policies**

**As needed, review and provide input on new policies that relate to international students.**

#### **Executive Summary:**

- The feedback received from KUIA units and functional clusters is already informing this charge.
- There are certain policies being drafted by Global Operations and Security that will affect international students. Specifically, these policies focus on criteria to allow internationals to come to campus conduct research or teaching. The Committee recommends that all such

policies be submitted to University governance through the University Senate for review by the Committee in FY2021, consistent with this charge.

**STANDING CHARGE FOUR: Input on new policies received from SenEx**

As needed review and provide input on new policies that relate to international studies, research, and teaching, received from SenEx.

**Executive Summary**

- No policies have been received from SenEx during this academic year. However, the discussion around standing charges 3 and 4 concluded that they are very similar and thus, may be consolidated.

**Conclusion**

- The following is a proposal from the International Affairs Committee (IAC) to request that the standing charges to the IAC from the University Senate and SenEx for FY2021 be modified to permit the Committee to provide greater input to SenEx when the Committee becomes aware of matters that should be part of the Committee's future work. We have also recommended several specific charges that we suggest the IAC may advise SenEx on in FY 2021. The proposed modifications for FY 2021 are as follows (the FY 2020 charges are also included for your reference).
- With regard to the proposed specific charges, the IAC believes that University policies developed by the Office of Global Operations & Security (GOS) that may affect KU faculty, students, or KUIA units should be subject to University governance through the University Senate, with the assistance of the KU International Affairs Committee.

**Proposed FY 2021 IAC Charges**

These charges are in addition to others University Senate and SenEx may assign to the committee:

**FY2021 Standing Charges:**

1. Develop contact with the leadership of International Student Association and organizations and international student senators.
2. Continue to review and as needed make recommendations on how the University may better accommodate access of International Student's to supportive services.
3. As needed, consider and propose to SenEx new policies that relate to international studies, research, teaching, and exchange.
4. As needed, review and provide input on new policies received from SenEx that relate to international studies, research, teaching, and exchange.

**FY2021 Proposed Specific Charges:**

1. In consultation with the KUIA units, GOS and others, develop recommendations for the appropriate governance procedures that should apply to new University policies that relate to international studies, research, and teaching.

2. In consultation with KUIA units, develop recommendations on the appropriate governance structure to flexibly provide oversight and input to GOS on all matters affecting international studies, research, teaching, and exchange.
3. Review and provide recommendations to SenEx regarding policies proposed by the Office of Global Operations & Security (GOS) that will affect international studies, research, teaching, and exchange.

**Appendix A:**  
**Major themes in response to questions about KUIA restructuring<sup>1</sup>**  
**Fall 2019**

**Q: In your opinion, what has worked well in the new restructuring of the KUIA units?**

- More logically arranged and aligned
- More cross-training, collaboration, and awareness building
- Streamlining of services
- Better communication among units
- More efficiencies and synergies

**Q: What could be improved?**

- KUIA receives no central funding in its budget from KU to support its mission, although KU sees itself as a global university. Requiring KUIA to be self-funding is problematic. KUIA is being asked to do too much with very little support.
- KU administration does not appear to adequately recognize importance of international engagement: the Associate Vice Provost of KUIA should be a Vice Provost and have more voice in KU Administration.
- The Office of Global Operations and Security has gained traction with KU Administration as a voice for international perspectives—many respondents found this disturbing.
- Moving all KUIA units into the same building would improve internal communication and service to clients.
- Adding KUIA voices in University's strategic planning efforts.

**Q: What additional resources would be helpful?**

- Funding for international recruitment, study abroad, marketing, student orientation
- Institutional resources so KUIA can uphold institutional regulatory requirements
- Expanded communications component to let the campus and outside partners know about the programs and mission of the KUIA
- Additional staff (International Short Programs)
- Improved technology such as laptops for staff (International Short Programs)

**Q: How can University Senate help?**

- University Senate should keep an eye on the Office of Global Operations and Security, which seems to be operating outside the role of shared governance and has a great deal of power with upper level administration
- Become educated about international education and research at KU, including international student metrics
- Advocate for funding—we say we are an “international research university” but the funding model doesn’t support that statement

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<sup>1</sup> These responses were compiled from all nine (9) KUIA units

- Consider international students when making decisions about student issues
- Advocate for KUIA unit voices in University strategic planning efforts
- Provide funding for KUIA to:
  - Encourage faculty and staff to advocate for study abroad programs
  - Increase collaboration with units focused on student recruitment and external communication to help KU brand internationally
  - Help identify opportunities for structural connections and collaborations across campus

**Appendix B:**  
**KU AIR Report**



**One-Year Retention of  
International First-time Freshmen  
Fall 2016 - Fall 2018**  
**University of Kansas - Lawrence Campus**

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		2016 Fall			2017 Fall			2018 Fall			All Years		
		# in Cohort	# Retained to Year 2	% Retained to Year 2	# in Cohort	# Retained to Year 2	% Retained to Year 2	# in Cohort	# Retained to Year 2	% Retained to Year 2	# in Cohort	# Retained to Year 2	% Retained to Year 2
<b>First-time Freshmen</b>	<b>All International</b>	196	177	90.3%	146	121	82.9%	180	155	86.1%	522	453	86.8%
<b>Non-Shorelight recruited</b>	<b>AEC Levels 1-3</b>	9	9	100%	5	3	60.0%	8	4	50.0%	22	16	72.7%
	<b>AEC Levels 4-5</b>	24	21	87.5%	13	11	84.6%	8	8	100%	45	40	88.9%
	<b>English Proficient</b>	42	41	97.6%	35	31	88.6%	47	41	87.2%	124	113	91.1%
<b>Shorelight recruited</b>	<b>AEC Levels 1-3</b>	66	56	84.8%	45	31	68.9%	22	19	86.4%	133	106	79.7%
	<b>AEC Levels 4-5</b>	41	36	87.8%	28	26	92.9%	43	37	86.0%	112	99	88.4%
	<b>English Proficient</b>	14	14	100%	20	19	95.0%	52	46	88.5%	86	79	91.9%