

Minutes: KU International Affairs Committee

Monday, November 19, 2018 | 8:30am | Marvin Hall 306

Attendees: Kapila Silva (Chair); Virginia Harper Ho (faculty); Seth Brooks (staff); Manuela Gonzales-Bueno (faculty); Charlie Bankart (ex. Officio); Billie Archer (staff); Humberto Salinas (voting student), Peter Okpokodu (faculty)

Excused:

Absent: Arianna Chavaria

Discussions:

1. Review/Approval of the Minutes of 11/05/2018 meeting
2. Update on the Survey results of KU Smoking Policy (Peter/Humberto/Arianna)

Questionnaire Findings

- Overall positive response from students (86 responded)
- Most responses from China and Asia in general
- 70% do not smoke.
- 15% smoke daily.
- 80% were aware of the ban.
- About 74% responded that it affected them positively.
- Some students commented that their friends have to walk off campus to smoke.
- Some students skip class to smoke.
- 75% said that knowing the policy would not have affected their choice; 14% said it would have impacted their decision.
- 60% thought it would have a positive impact.
- There is a 14% number that smoke and have negative responses.
- 11.8% have cultural/religious obligation to smoke.
 - o Victoria: it is a question of if it is only during ceremonies or if it is something they would do in public?
- Someone said that 10 of their friends stopped smoking as a result.
- A few different respondents recommended a designated smoking area.

Conclusions on Smoking Ban Questionnaire Findings

- In general, positive impact.
- There is a small group that smoke and struggle with it.
- Some recommend implementing smoking areas.
- Humberto: I suggest having a smoking area as at least an interim measure as the adjustment is made across campus.
- Charlie: There seems to be a mental connection for some people between the smoking ban and concealed and carry. Since these were discussed around the same time, people may have mixed up and not realized that one is a state mandate while the other is institutional.

Discussion of Processes for Communicating Policies to International Students

- Charlie: there is a difference in communication between the Academic Accelerator Program and the program of other international students. This split of process has presented challenges. Direct admits received more communication on policies such as these.
 - o It could be helpful for the committee to recommend that all int. students receive the same communication, especially the core pieces of communication.
 - o Students through Shorelight are coded to not receive certain communications.
 - o Silva: why is that?
 - o Charlie: my sense would be that it is about marketing. I have been told that until the student arrives, you are still recruiting the student. Some difficult conversations are easier to have in person on campus as opposed to during recruitment. It seems to be a strategic decision.
- Humberto: my personal experience with the AAP was really good. I understood that we had additional activities and experiences.

Charlie and Billie Updates

- Charlie: we did not have a language proficiency requirement at the undergrad admission level, but we did have one on submitting official scores that were younger than 2 years old, but there was no exceptions clause.
- We have created an exceptions policy that applicants can apply for in certain circumstances.
 - o For example, Saudi students from Canada who hadn't completed the tests but had studied in Canada for larger periods of time yet had to leave due to relations between the countries.
- Charlie: alternative documentation for proficiency for graduates applying to graduate programs.
 - o Recently, it has been changed so that native speakers of English do not need to be tested.
 - o There is an old policy still in effect that if students are from countries where they speak multiple languages including English they are accepted.
 - o Currently looking for alternative methods or curriculum to use as evidence.

3. Update on Specific Charges # 1 (Kapila/ Seth)

- Kapila: Was told to that I would receive info from Shorelight; haven't received yet. Have also not
- Director for University partnerships from Navitas called but did not want to give information. Their international enrolment in the U.S. has gone up 2% in the recent years.
- Going forward in our recommendation, even if we don't have a lot of data, the article gives us a lot of information and ideas that we can use to buttress our argument relating to our charges.

4. Exploring Standing Charges in Spring 2019 (Billie)

- Billie to keep developing information and giving us updates as she settles into her new position.
- International Programs is hoping to put on an event to tell the departments about opportunity to partner with IP in recruitment.

5. Agenda & meeting dates in the spring 2019 semester

- Kapila: For the first meeting of next semester, we could each share a write up for each specific charge and consider how to incorporate that into our final report. Then, we can start working on our general charges.
- Seth to do: send out a link to everyone with a link to respond to potential times for members to meet next semester.

Adjourned at 9:40.