

Minutes: KU International Affairs Committee

Thursday, September 20, 2018 | 3:00 p.m. | Strong Hall 258

Attendees: Kapila Silva (Chair); Virginia Harper Ho (faculty); Peter Ukpokodu (faculty);
Manuela Gonzalez-Bueon (faculty); Humberto Salinas (voting student)
Excused: Charlie Bankart (ex. Officio); Seth Brooks (staff)
Absent: Pallavi Singh (staff); Camila Ordonez (voting student)

Chair opens with introductions & agenda:

- Materials provided regarding the IAC's specific charges, to be explored in fall 2018
- IAC standing charges will be the focus of the spring 2019 semester
- IAC to provide report to the University Senate on both standing & specific charges at the end of the spring semester

Discussion of Specific Charges (Chair):

1. International Enrollment & Shorelight – IAC to compare international enrollment at KU with international enrollment at (a) “similar” institutions who work with Shorelight (list provided); (b) “similar” institutions who work with a Shorelight competitors (list provided); and (c) “similar” institutions that use no such service.
 - Chair noted that Shorelight began working with KU in 2014 and that the IAC produced an evaluation of Shorelight in 2016 (TB provided to the IAC). However, that report noted the need for better data on which to evaluate Shorelight's effectiveness.
 - KU's AAP Director Amy Neufield has provided the IAC with the list of Shorelight partners and competitors
 - The IAC discussed how we should define “similar” institutions and determined to begin from the list of KU's peer institutions and to ask for enrollment data generally, but specifically for the past 4 years, since that is equivalent to the period of KU's experience.
 - Peter asked whether the OIP could assist us in reaching out at the Director level at the identified institutions to obtain this information.
 - IAC noted need to also compare KU's international enrollment data pre- and post-Shorelight; need to see if that data has already been compiled by the OIP or others.

Action Items: Chair to contact Shorelight; IAC members then to reach out to contact persons at other Shorelight partner schools, and secondarily to non-Shorelight peer schools.

2. Federal Visa Changes (2016)/Graduate Enrollment.

- In October 2016, the federal government amended its rules regarding [student visa applicants] to restrict admission on a provisional basis. All applicants must now meet whatever minimum admissions standards have been established by their departments.
- This change raised the issue of whether the Business School and other professional schools can accept students into a terminal degree that serves the same purpose; for example, accepting the student into an MBA program rather than into a Ph.D. program.
- The IAC should first discuss this issue with the Graduate School Dean and then the Admissions Deans in different schools to better understand the issue and identify potential solutions.

Action Items: Chair to invite Charlie Bankart to an upcoming meeting to discuss this issue; IAC to meet first with Chuck Olcese, Melissa Birch, and Lynne Vanahill (KU's visa/immigration office) to understand this issue better before reaching out to various deans.

3. Study of Impact of KU Smoking Ban on International Students.

- Chair proposed that a possible approach would be to invite international student group representatives to an upcoming meeting to discuss this issue.
- Humberto proposed creating a survey to be distributed to members of international student group organizations.

Allocation of Responsibility. The IAC discussed allocation of responsibility for the above action items.

1. Shorelight-partnered schools and International enrollment – Kapila, Seth
2. Federal visa issue – Virginia, Manuela & Pallavi to develop questions for the initial meeting with Charlie Bankart and others (see above); Chair to coordinate this meeting.
3. Smoking ban – Peter, Humberto to identify student organization leaders and create a draft invitation letter, attaching the current policy, as well as a draft poll or survey, to be approved by the IAC before distribution.

Scheduling

The Chair proposed, and the IAC confirmed that fall semester meetings should be held biweekly from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Marvin Hall (location TBD) on the following dates: Oct. 1, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, Nov. 19, and Dec. 03.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.