Present:  Chair Koopmann, Karl-Georg Federhofer, Royster Harper, Janine Maddock, Leo McAfee, David Potter, Susan Pritzel, Ian Margolis, Karin Teske (student support)

Guests: Jackie Simpson - Director, The Spectrum Center

John Greisberger- Director, International Center
Louise Baldwin -Associate Director, International Center

Student Panel – International Center

The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm

Chair Remarks

Chair Koopmann asked if the committee had an interest in a prepared statement on residency requirements for discussion at the next meeting.

There was interest among the committee. The committee would like to discuss the issue further at a future meeting and have specific materials and questions prepared. Interest in comparing Michigan’s residency requirements to those of other universities in Michigan in particular Michigan State.

Minutes from January were unanimously approved.

International Students Center and Panel

The U of M enrolls the 3rd largest population of international students among public universities.

2/3 are graduate students and most are in the college of engineering
1/3, or about 1,300 are undergraduates, most of whom are in LSA

Student Panel
- students like that UM offers diversity of classes in different fields
- students have problems with orientation
  -international students cannot come early to the country
  - students are left with registration problems as many classes are filled
  -some seats are reserved for late registration similarly to domestic students who have orientation later in the summer.
- many international students wish to be able to take more classes during the summer
  -pressure has built for the summer for schools to offer more courses
    -LSA will offer more summer courses this coming year
    -College of engineering just doesn’t do this
many international students feel that orientation should have a focus on an orientation to the academic setting of a U.S. school
- become better prepared for the classroom environment
- become more acquainted with team assignments and group projects
- in other words, learn the culture of the American classroom
- understand the relationships between faculty and students
- interacting with instructors, office hours, etc.
- academic advising is at the end of August- just a week before the semester starts
- many students feel that if they had the opportunity to have orientation earlier in the summer they would take the opportunity
- VISA allows to arrive 30 days before the start date of the VISA document; the start date of the VISA document is the first day of Orientation so technically they could arrive at the end of July as it is.
- many international students would be better prepared for the semester and life in general in the U.S. if they had more time to become oriented.

Introduction to the use of the University and for study skills, would this satisfy the VISA if it were not a full semester course? - Yes.

Additional option of having part of the summer orientation abroad for incoming international students as the cost to the student would be cheaper.

Housing Issues

For orientation, international students cannot move in until the night before orientation.
- international flight schedules are terrible for this
  - how does a student arrive at 3 in the morning and get a room key, move in, etc.
- some temporary housing issues should be addressed

- Student on the panel felt homeless for the beginning of winter break because the dorms were closed but her flight was not until the next day
- Students feel that being able to store personal belongings on campus during the spring and summer would also be a big help.

Student Services

Resources such as the career center, writing center, CAPS, etc. are disorganized for international students.
- it would help to have extra outreach from some of these services
- cultural differences prevent some international students from seeking help, academically or for psychological matters.
Mentorship programs for incoming international students to be paired with a veteran international student exist through Rackham, through the college of engineering, but need to be revitalized.

Based on the student issues that were brought up, the committee recognized several issues to be considered: better introduction to the university for acclimation; accommodations over university breaks before and after holiday break based on international flight schedules; certain special programs or a section of them geared to international students (sweetland and CAPS); registration issue, remodeled student mentorships, and summer storage.

LGBT Student Update- Jackie Simpson

Discussed last time were academic programs that were not supportive of student sexuality and gender expression.

-Since then much has been done with ADVANCE as well as allied training with faculty in the medical, engineering, law, and public policy schools.

RA training includes allied training as part of staff orientation program for full time, student, and graduate staff.

Guidance Perspective Support (GPS)- related to coming out

- training created so students can be engaged through the internet and not have to come in to an office.
- try to have students who have multiple identities like gay athletes who can talk to someone who might be a gay athlete because these students will have information that is unique to this group.
- obviously impossible to target every possible identity but this improves the reach

International Center- collaboration around LGBT and international issues

- allied training for international center
- cross cultural communications for Spectrum center

international students are participating in coming out groups

- made up 7 out of 15 persons coming out

Rackham – now uses “parent A” and “parent B” on application instead of “mother” and “father”

Bias incidences are down this year
Currently conducting climate research to determine if allied training is making a difference on campus

Coed Housing Issue

about 30 schools across the country offer coed housing

U of M gets a few emails each semester inquiring into why that is not provided

Students are taking responsibility to collect information from schools who do have this practice to learn how its working, what was done, what was the reaction, etc.
Michigan does not have as much on campus housing for upper classmen as compared to Berkely. The student maturity level makes a difference.

**VP of Student Affairs**

- Visibility of diversity is important; we are trying to normalize the diversity and all the ways the faculty and staff present themselves; not if we can be right or be wrong but a community where people can just be.

- International housing and CAPS will be resolved;
  - we need to be proactive about making sure the students know the services are there
  - will require over outreach to reach international students

- Recreational Sports task force has issued reports; we may want to discuss it at this committee

Budget: division of student affairs will keep cuts away from students; downsize by attrition

An electronic report will be sent out.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:39pm

Submitted by: Karin Teske

SACUA Student Support