ACN Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2013


39 total

Introduction, Snapshot of Chinese Students on campus, and advising Chinese Students – Tim Hathaway

- See Powerpoint presentation sent by Laura Stark to ACN on November 20
- Tim’s background – 1.5 years at UWM, prior to that 9 years in China in 3 cities working as an investigative journalist and English teacher
- Tim stressed he was speaking with broad brush strokes, there is much diversity in China and with Chinese students
- Chinese students are the biggest group of international students on campus – top fields of study are Business and Engineering – the national trend is the same
- Advising in China
  - No guidance counselors in HS - teachers correct behavior, may give advice on which universities to consider; Chinese HS is more demanding than college
  - There is no application for universities – just take Gaokao test for 3 days and pick top 5 universities and programs. Students are placed in university based on test results. – University name on diploma can be more important than major!
- University in China
  - No need for academic advising – study in cohort system groups of 40 typically set classes for a 4 year plan of study
  - Teachers do advising for jobs etc.
  - Any Advisors/Counselors in University Department are Communist Party affairs – they also handle “psychological” problems like roommate issues etc.
- Cultural Factor 1 - Finding Official University Info
  - In US – we expect to see it – there is a level of transparency
  - In China – no syllabus – don’t understand how to navigate rigid rules
  - Major requirements – learning how to choose can be confusing for Chinese Ss
  - Housing policies – in US on website – in China – not on website
  - Official Info – in China it is hard to find, even if written policies – they are subject to change.
Clear policies are difficult in a developing society
Typical in China to talk to someone – particularly someone at the highest level. They may also seek multiple opinions.

**Cultural Factor 2 – Addressing Problems**
- In China Add/drop – not online, very difficult to do, must persuade people
- In China – Change major – almost impossible to do – pick university by name and the name is more important than the major
- Changing grades – in US – very difficult. In China – it happens – sometimes unethically – there is no transparency in the system
- Cultural expectations – in China students learn to expect exceptions
- Roommate issues – In US - RA is the gatekeeper for the problems - in China — students live with the same roommate for 4 years – it is extremely difficult to change. The residence hall is not viewed as a center of learning or vital to the university experience.

**Cultural Factor 3 – Millennials**
- China – stereotypes – 1 child (2 are ok in rural areas) spoiled – 1 child, 2 parents, 4 grandparents, “Tiger Mom” driving them, immature and sheltered
- China – reality – diversity of experiences and backgrounds – wide spectrum of pressure and privilege – wide range of low income to wealthy – typically are much more sheltered than US students typically no jobs, minimal social interaction and very focused on education
- Education is subsidized in China < $1000 USD for tuition – housing virtually free and food very cheap – no washing machines or hot water in the dorms in China
- In US – millennials are praised, comfortable with egalitarian leadership, civic minded, confident and motivated
- In China – millennials are praised only for high achievement, at parent/teacher conferences parents of low achieving Ss are often berated, mix of confidence and insecurity, more sheltered, more pressured, unaccustomed to goal setting, group oriented – important to keep “Face”, prefer decisive leadership, more civic minded, trust Chinese government

**Factors in Advising UWM Chinese Students**
- They will rely on other Chinese students first – they will use social media (QQ) to ask questions
- Language Barrier – they are shy about their English Skills – may not say they don’t understand. Don’t know the university terminology (“hold on your accounts” “bursar’s office” “drop a class”) A good plan is to ask them to repeat/recap what you said
- Dynamics between child/parent – some Chinese families may have to scrape to get their children here
• Student may not have been able to choose his/her own major. May only have choice if in Grad school.
• Sometimes the student doesn’t want to be overseas – but the opportunities were better in the US than in China.
• Face – family is bragging about student in US – if they fail it is very bad for them and their family
• Finding a Job – very important for Chinese Students – much competition in the job market – students need practical experience
  o Most plan to return to China after 1-3 years of experience
• Events for international students (including Chinese students)
  o Kevin Beisser in ISSS (International Student and Scholar Services)
  o How’s it Going? Events – every two weeks – different topics about American life
  o ISSS is working with the First Year Center to add programming for international students
  o More plans are in the works
• Tim’s contact info – hathawat@uwm.edu and extension 2476

**Cultures and Communities Program – Rob Smith and Kate Powers**

• Introductions – Rob Smith – Director – this is his first semester as Director – but has been at UWM for 4 years. He is a Professor of History and was co-director of Undergraduate Studies.
• Agenda: Reminders/updates, Ways they are Expanding and Questions
• Three things:
  o CUP – Community University Partnership
    ▪ Person or group from campus works with community – can get a grant from the office
  o Service Learning – Multicultural America - course component typically in 150 classes in many disciplines – requires service learning
  o Certificate Program
    ▪ ALL incoming students are encouraged
    ▪ 15 credit certificate
    ▪ ALL courses help students fulfill GER!
• When advisors have advising appointments with students, please encourage them to do the certificate program!
• Department is working with Social Work department to have certificate for all Social Work majors. We have also partnered with the Middle Childhood-Early Adolescence (SOE) and Community Art (PSOA) majors.
• If a program or department has questions, or would like to start a program contact Kate Powers by email cc-info@uwm.edu
  o Kate draws up a plan for the department so it is clear for advisors and students
Kate draws up a policies/procedures document with the department
- Can work with CBLLR to help students fulfill the requirements

- Global Studies students may be able to use their international internship towards this certificate.
- They will communicate with schools and colleges individually

**Academic Opportunity Center – John Dorosz and Karen Baker**
- Please see Powerpoint emailed from Laura Stark to ACN on November 22, 2013
- John Dorosz – Assistant Director of Advising and Admissions, Dr. Karen Baker is Assistant Director for Instruction
- Location – Main office Mitchell Hall 173, Advising MIT 177, Instruction MIT 165
- Mission: Help students who need extra support to be successful in college
  - How are they doing this?
    - Admission – considering students/secondary review
    - Advising – Intensive “in your face” advising
    - Instruction – Intro level courses for college success
      - Smaller classes
      - Smaller advising load in collaboration with other schools
      - Develop transitional courses
- Student Support Services is now part of AOC
- Monitor student’s progress during first 24 credits
- Some courses taught and housed in AOC
  - Math 90
  - Ed Psy 100 – Study Skills
  - Ed Psy 101 – Academic probation students get back on track
- Sections of other courses taught through English and Math departments
  - AOC only sections for Math 95, English 95, 101 and 102
  - Smaller course size
  - AOC instructors likely to teach the section
- Academic Unit – reports to the provost – helps students transition to college
- Bridge program – select students who need extra support
  - Tentative dates for 2014 = July 7 – August 6
    - Student will move in July 7
    - NSO scheduled for July 7th and 8th per UWM Campus Summer bridge meeting minutes October 7, 2013
  - Curricular pilots will be taught this summer
  - Many non-native speakers (make big improvements in the summer)
    - They will continue in ESL
  - English/Study Skills/Math
- Students will transfer out of AOC to other schools/colleges
• 10% of AOC students make the Dean’s list
• Students sometimes feel “less than,” but AOC works hard to provide extra support and reassurance so no one know their status unless they disclose it.
• Question – when do students transfer to school/college?
  o Can be as quick as 1 semester!
  o Depends on English/Math proficiency, GPA and department regulations
  o Most students stay 1 year, rarely 1.5 years or longer
  o Many AOC students may be exploring their options or undeclared
• Question – (advisor in ASL) Is there any way to better communicate or get better advising?
  o AOC students don’t automatically get a secondary advisor unless they have requested one
  o AOC students could be placed with generalist who doesn’t know the details of a specific major
  o Students should make sure they get connected to the right secondary advisor
• Cultural Specific Student Services are found in Bolton Hall
• They hold monthly meetings with AOC
• AOC reminds each student to see their advisor in their school/college of their intended major
• No AOC students are international
• To be an AOC student, student must be admitted to AOC at UWM. Other students COULD be in an AOC course if needed

Campus Community Reports
• Student Success Center
  o TASO – January 14, NSO January 16
  o Housing fees are due – must be paid before orientation
  o Wednesday, December 11 - Orientation
  o Hiring for Campus Ambassadors!! Visit www.campus-ambassador.uwm.edu
• Financial Aid
  o No updates
• Center for International Education
  o No updates
• LGBT Resource Center
  o Transgender Day remembrance was held November 19 and 20 in the Union Concourse
  o Lavendar Graduation is May 15th, any December Grads should contact Cameron Breither at peerout@uwm.edu
• Women’s Resource Center (WRC)
  o AlternatingWednesdays – Sister Talk Bolton 196 1pm – 3pm
o Alternating Wednesdays - Film Series Bolton 196 1pm – 3pm
o Coffee Talk – First Friday of the month in the WRC
  ▪ Geared to Graduate students
  ▪ Encourage UG too
o 2nd Friday of the month Student Parents meeting at WRC 12pm – 1:30pm
  ▪ Focus on Grads but UG welcome too
o Students of Concern met November 26 from 9am – 10:30am in Sandburg Flicks
  ▪ Info was sent out through Staff Development
  ▪ Dean of Students was there to talk about how they help the students you are concerned about.

• Registrar’s Office - Brian Hinshaw
  o Spring Registration has started
  o Math – system is checking pre-requisites for Math 103 and 105
  o FLEX – now accepting applications

• ARC – no updates

• PASS
  o Winterim Tutoring mostly in person for in-person courses
  o Some on call for on-line help
  o January 2 through January 17 – 3 hours/day or by appointment
  o Final Exam review sessions
  o Cards for tutoring for Spring
    ▪ Notes – schedule for Spring if tutoring available

• Office of Undergraduate Admissions “Admissions”
  o Black and Gold Friday
  o Drawing to win $500 tuition reimbursement
  o Discounts at the Book Store on Black and Gold Fridays
  o New Viewbook for Adult Students
    ▪ Throw out any old ones
    ▪ Contact the office to get new books

Announcements

• Christine Wolf - ACN Awards Committee
  o Changes to nominations
    ▪ More efficient processing
    ▪ More User friendly
    ▪ Mostly online
  o Check email reminder from Christine!