

Members Present:

S. Bednar, J. Berndt, D. Borton, S. Byrne Irwin, S. Chang, T. Current, A. Datey, T. Deutsch, J. Dvorak, M. Fero, D. Galowitch, D. Gardner, S. Gosz, D. Gygi, J. Hack, A. Harley, B. Hinshaw, J. Hutchings, W. Johnson, A. Joseph, S. Kaempfer, J. Klumpp, M. Knasinski, G. Kopke, S. Lake, T. Long, A. Maldonado, E. Maldonado, T. McGhee, R. McGraw, I. Mclaughlin, L. Molina, D. Northrup, K. Omachinski, S. Perkins, K. Press, V. Provost, K. Raymond, A. Runingen, W. Scherer, J. Singer, L. Stark, D. Wallace, C. Wolf, A. Wrench, S. Zlotocha

Jen Singer & Kim Omachinski – From Application to Graduation: International Students

Admissions on this campus focus on three areas – domestic grads, domestic undergrads and international students. International students are an increasing population on this campus and this presentation will cover how these students get here, what these students do here once they are here and contacts for future questions.

International Student and Scholar Service (ISSS) consist of International Admissions, Recruitment and Immigration Advising for students, exchange students and scholars/professors and researchers. Exchange students are handled through the Study Abroad Office. The definition of an international student varies by interested party, ex – some consider a refugee an international student, others do not. Student VISA types are F1 and J1. Other common visa types at UWM are H4, H1B, F2 and TN. When students are here on visa there are a lot of restrictions and things that UWM has to do. UW System does not count international students in diversity numbers. Currently UWM has 362 undergraduate international students and 553 graduate international students with a 73% UG retention rate. This is an 80% increase in undergraduate enrollment since 2002 and numbers continue to climb. Top 5 countries include: China, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia governments give full ride scholarships for students to receive an education in the United States.

The application process consists of the application and fees, transcript (an additional \$40.00 fee for evaluation of the international transcript), English proficiency and program/level specific for academic program. If English is not the students first language or the high school not English speaking, a TOEFL or IELTS are required. Depending on scores, a student is either accepted as a regular, dual or conditional admit. Students often are frustrated and challenge these scores since the scores don't always match the students' skill level. Ultimately we want these students to be successful in their classes and often need to pass classes in order to maintain visa requirements. Transcript/foreign credential evaluation is an art not a science. There is a lot of interpretation and advisors try to understand the native system as best as possible. **As advisors, if you see something on a student's transcript that could be helpful, please call the CIE.** ECE – Education Credential Evaluators, an outside company in Milwaukee is not used, CIE uses professionals in the office here at UWM.

International students do have to show evidence of financial support up front. One full year of evidence is required. This is necessary to obtain an I-20. Funding can come from assistantship/scholarship/fellowship, personal or family funds or government funding. An I-20 is an official government document issued by the school used to apply for a visa. School must be certified by government. **I-20's need to be filled out by the International Office and not by advisors.**

SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) is a government database tracking international students and schools. I-20 created by using SEVIS. **System set up in PAWS to notify International Office of all changes made to a student's record. Advisors don't have to report changes but feel free to call if you'd like to.** Schools report personal, program, financial and employment information. Keep **in mind that a major change may have funding issues so do be aware.**

The visa process is a very large process and a very daunting task for a student. Lots of documentation and processes need to be followed. Students need to show a proof of ties to their home country and will need to return home after education is complete. Sometimes students are denied if not believed. At the Port of Entry additional interviews are conducted, more paperwork evaluated and

SEVIS records updated. An extra screening (NSEERS) can also be conducted for a student coming from a specific county at a certain age.

Just a few of the challenges that students encounter when they first arrive in Milwaukee- finding an apartment, rent & utilities and being immersed in the English language. UWM offers two types of Orientations for students – one is a comprehensive full day orientation while the other, for more experienced travelers, is a brief- just the facts orientation. All students are reminded how to maintain their status here on campus. Plagiarism is also a big issue that is addressed during the orientation sessions.

Conditions of visa status include full-time enrollment, employment limited to 20 hrs/ week ON-CAMPUS and reporting changes of program level/completion/personal. If pursuing an internship, a CPT packet can be provided to international students but these students have to work with the International Office. A few reasons students need ISSS during their studies at UWM – Travel, Employment – on campus, CPT, Changes to I-20, Change of status, Progress towards degree, Less Than Full Time, Family – marriage, children (F2), Health problems, US Education system - ESL, Resource for culturally sensitive issues

Graduation requires final semester enrollment. Optional Practical Training (OPT) is for F1 students and allows 12 months employment in student's field, applications can take 3 months and is a common path to H1B – being allowed to stay here in the US. **Advisors may have to fill out form regarding the OPT.** If you have any questions regarding International Students, please be in contact with the ISSS at ISSS@uwm.edu or by calling (414) 229-4846.

Rachel Leahy – Alcohol and your College Experience (ACE) Program

Rachel works in Health Promotions through the Norris Health Center. She began working here at UWM in July 2010. ACE – Alcohol and Your College Experience is an educational program and is completed by students who have been documented for underage consumption by either UWM Police or University Housing. If the program is completed a reduction in ticket price occurs and the ticket is removed from their record. The ACE program is offered in an educational seminar 2 hour class format that focuses on alcohol, affects on the body, strategies for safe drinking and a screening tool that is conducted in a 1-on-1 meeting after. Students also need to complete an on-line survey (e-Chug) that is also looked at during that 1-on-1 meeting. Statistics in comparisons across the US and here at UWM are included, also showcasing cost and caloric intake. Rachel would like to see more self-referrals to the program. This educational opportunity provides the student with a free and safe environment to discuss alcohol consumption concerns.

Rachel does have time in her schedule for an educational presentation by School/College or area if a specific area wanted to have her come in and present. There is an online form that students sign up through to enroll in the class.

Campus Community Reports

- Enhancing Advising Subcommittee
No report
- Graduate/Retention Workgroup
No report
- Financial Aid
No report
- Center for International Education

The Center for International Education is a comprehensive unit that consists of Study Abroad, Academic programs and International Student and Scholars Services. Wednesday, February 16th from 9-2 is the Study Abroad Fair. Handouts are available on the back table. Summer and Fall Study Abroad experiences are available. There is a new scholarship named the Provost Diversity Scholarship available for students pursuing a study abroad experience. Eligibility criteria include: 1) be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; 2) be from a traditionally under-represented study abroad group; 3) be a full-time, degree seeking UWM student in good standing; 4) have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; 5) receive post-application acceptance into a UWM-

sponsored study abroad program during the specified terms listed above; 6) be prepared to commit to their program of choice and participate in full upon acceptance of this scholarship. Advising sessions have been set up to prepare to apply for this and other scholarships. All information is available through the Study Abroad Grants and Scholarships website.

- LGBT Resource Center
No report, just a reminder for the March 10-11 Diversity and Climate at UWM: A Campus Conversation
- Women's Recourse Center
No report
- Orientation Leadership Team
Thinking about the possibility of two Spring NFO dates; one in December and one in January. Please send ideas to Sharon Kaempfer (kaempfer@uwm.edu) or Jenny Hack (jlahmer@uwm.edu).
- Enrollment Services
New Freshman Placement Testing – on campus or regional testing. Chemistry placement major list will be emailed to ACN list for review to check if any majors were missed. Next OARSS Adult Info Session on March 3rd. Students can sign up for the event at adultinfosession.uwm.edu. Please share any information or feedback with Beth Warner on how things went during registration in fall regarding changes to the wait list being run more, targeted emails to students, etc.
- Student Accessibility Center
No report
- First Year Center
No report
- Panther Academic Support Services
Off to a great start this semester. Have students stop in to Bolton 120 or 180 or check out the website for online options. Study strategy links are now available on the PASS website. Information about time management, effective studying techniques and organization are just a few of the topics covered for students.

General Announcements

Diversity Career Day – Thursday, March 3rd 10-2

Introduction of New UWM Staff Members:

College of Letters & Science – Freshman advisor Joe Aigner, Continuing advisors Laura Stark, Dana Northrup and Saehee Chang
Peck School of the Arts – Mandy Harly and Shelly Bednar
School of Information Studies – Toby Deutsch, Jessica Hutchings and Angela Runingen
College of Engineering & Applied Science – Dee Dee Wallace
Neighborhood Housing – Jesica Berndt
School of Public Health – Darcie Galowitch

Reminder for February 16th – All-Campus Budget Forum 8:00-10:00 a.m. in the Wisconsin Room West