



**International Students and Scholars Committee  
Meeting minutes, September 16, 2022**

Meeting was called via Zoom at 10:00 AM

*Attendees: Mr. Chris Boothman, Dr. Veronika Pribyslavska, Dr. Fen Yu, Dr. Himaja Balakrishnan, Ms. Mallory Sluder, Mr. Taron Robinson (outside attendee), Ms. Luna Acosta, Dr. Cherrisse Jones-Branch, Ms. Courtney Sears, Dr. Gauri Guha*

**Business**

**1. Members**

- a. List of members needs to be updated on the A-State website
  - Members of the committee have changed. The current members are:

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Luna      | Acosta       |
| Hashim    | Ali          |
| Himaja    | Balakrishnan |
| Chris     | Boothman     |
| Nora      | Bouzihay     |
| Tracy     | Finch        |
| Gauri     | Guha         |
| Cherrisse | Jones-Branch |
| Pradeep   | Mishra       |
| Amy       | Pearce       |
| Veronika  | Pribyslavska |
| Courtney  | Sears        |
| Mallory   | Sluder       |
| Alan      | Utter        |
| Fen       | Yu           |
- b. Need to vote a committee chair – Dr. Guha motioned to nominate Dr. Veronika Pribyslavska, Dr. Jones-Branch seconded, supported by a unanimous vote
- c. Still in need of a student representative – Dr. Fen Yu have nominated/volunteered her graduate assistant. Note: the following information was discussed via email after the meeting with Jeff Bailey: However, per the official committee description, either the Graduate Student Council or the Student Government Association nominate/appoint the undergraduate and graduate student representative. Jeff Bailey will be sending more information about this nomination once he receives any information from either organization.
- d. Should we have a secretary/administrative assistant? – the graduate student representative will serve in this role

## 2. *Current situation at A-State*

### a. International enrollments

- Ms. Mallory Sluder, Dr. Fen Yu, Mr. Chris Boothman provided some info
- Application numbers 4x increase
- There was an overall increase across the board. Expected the growth to continue to increase
- We also saw an increase in MX campus, 918 students, which is 3.2% increase in enrollment
- Some countries still closed down or strict with providing student visas

### Enrollment numbers:

- International students for Fall 2022: UG = 533, GR = 255, Total = 788 (increased by 168 from last fall)
- International students for Fall 2021: UG = 402, GR = 218, Total = 620
- New first-time international freshman Fall 2022: 108 students (increased by two from last year's 106)
- Top five countries they come from: India, Nepal, Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea/China (tied at 5th place)
- Mexico campus students Fall 2022: 918
- Mexico campus students Fall 2021: 889

## 3. *International Programs* (Ms. Mallory Yarbrough provided more detail)

### a. Position changes and reorganization

- International admission and recruitment are now one entity
- Ms. Courtney Sears has changed position – now serving as the Director of Campus Experience. Still works with the international office to some capacity (working with the Ambassadors and the events).
- Mr. Taron Robinson is now the Director of International Programs. He also serves as the main contact for international questions

### b. Programming for international students

- Can be found on A-state calendar and sent via A-state digest
- Shuttle service – changes were implemented, no longer COVID impacted

## **Goals and new business**

- Dr. Jones-Branch posed a question about International new student orientation – “Can we do something differently to help graduate students coming from outside to adjust?” Mr. Taron Robinson answered, suggested advising sessions during the orientation for the graduate students. Ms. Courtney Sears is in charge of organizing the NSO. It was suggested that Mr. Taron, Ms. Courtney and Ms. Mallory work together to facilitate the process of providing resources for graduate students
- Dr. Guha suggested that ISSC members could be the first point of contact for the international students

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM