1International Education Council

Meeting Minutes
September 25th, 2026
Blair Hall Conference Room 3108

Members present: Musrat Hasan Emon, Grace Glass, Nichole Hugo, David Viertel, Jessica Tindira, Kiran Padmaraju

Members absent: Ed Wehrle, Gopal Periyannan, Lisa Brooks

Ex-officio present: Catherine Polydore, Bobbi, Kingery, Angela Jacobs, Tyler Custer, Jenny Sipes, Keerthana Saraswathula, Heather Crank, Sham'ah Md-Yunus

Ex-officio absent: Richard England

Visitors present: Ben Rienbolt, Cheyenne Brickner

I. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

David called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Minutes from Spring 2026 approved. The committee elected Jessica as Vice Chair. They also discussed moving the meeting time to a different Friday of the month as several members have conflicts with the current meeting time. The committee will revisit the Bylaws and Scholarship Committee elections.

II. Reports

1. International Students and Scholars: Mr. Tyler Custer

Mr. Tyler Custer gave an update on enrollment, current in office events, and recruitment. For Fall 2026, there are 1383 total graduate applications with 481 admitted (35%). For Spring 2027, there are 126 total graduate applications with 42 incomplete (33%), 58 decisions made (46%), 19 pending department decisions (15%), and 7 cancelled (6%). Ghana is leading applications with a total of 66, followed by Pakistan (23) and Bangladesh (7) respectively. For Fall 2026, there are 1339 undergraduate applications with 517 admitted (39%). For Spring 2027, there are 199 total undergraduate applications with 79 incomplete (49%), 113 decisions made (57%), 1 comp R2R (.5%), and 2 cancelled (1%). Ghana leads applications with a total of 76, followed by Pakistan (22) and Uganda (19) respectively. OISS hosted an OPT informational session that had a decent turnout, as well as informational sessions about the new regulations. The new regulations are currently paused. Additionally, they will be hosting multiple sessions for OPT, CPT, Banking, and Traveling/Maintaining Status.

2. **International Programs: Mr. Ben Reinbolt & Musrat Hasan Emon**

   Mr. Ben Rienbolt gave an update on international programming events, such as a panel discussion about how U.S. elections effect international students. He is also looking into alternatives for Sprintax. Ben discussed a proposal from AIS to change some bathrooms on campus for religious/cultural purposes. This would also involve student government. November 10-14 is International Week, with the 14th being Global Cultural Night.

   Mr. Musrat Hasan Emon discussed the new RSO offices and upcoming events including the Champaign grocery trip, fall picnic, and homecoming parade. Dean Jacobs asked if AIS would like t-shirts made for the parade.

3. **Study Abroad: Mrs. Heather Crank**

   Mrs. Heather Crank gave an update on study abroad programming sessions and events. She currently has 3 faculty lead proposals and is planning to hold workshops for faculty lead programs at least once a month. There is a total of 45 applications to study abroad for the 2026-2027. Study Abroad has been a part of fall orientation, Panther Quest, and Pantherpalooza. They also held the Study Abroad Fair with a good turnout of about 70 students. Study Abroad has more promotional activities coming up, including the Discover Day at Charleston High School.

III. Dean's Report

Dr. Angela Jacobs discussed the Global Ambassador Program proposal. This program would include mentorship to incoming international students and scholarship opportunities for the mentor. She also reported that the online domestic tuition rate is now available to international students. Tyler has been working with IT to develop a new app type. There have also been discussions about dedicated tuition waiver months. Dr. Jacobs brought up the idea of "Dinner with the Dean" during the holidays as another way to connect with students.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56am.