

10/26/2022

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Jose Luis Antinao, Israel Herrera (co-chairs), Issam Albdairat, Adam VanDeusen, Michael Brose, Xin Chen. Chris Sapp joined at 4.15 pm.

Meeting started at 3:35 pm. Remote via Zoom.

- Discussion according to Agenda (posted):

- 1- Minutes for 10-12 Meeting were approved. Antinao summarize the main points discussed to members who were absent last meeting.
- 2- Strategic Plan 2030: representation on Working Groups dealing with International Affairs [Herrera]. Co-chair Herrera showed the committee the link for the Strategic Plan () and composition of groups and suggested to insert ourselves into the activities of the working groups. He showed us how international interest groups, like the Latino group, we can join the Student Experiences and Belonging (Student Success and Opportunity), and the Global Partnerships Groups (Service to State and Beyond). Student Success and Opportunity- Graduate level was also suggested as a group to follow (this is a planning committee). Co-chair Herrera posed a question on members who would like to join. After a brief discussion on how the groups were established and assessing the possibility that it will be hard for us to get inserted at this stage, considering also our time, it was decided not to include ourselves or any of the members. Issam suggested to invite a representative for these groups instead. The committee was in favor of inviting the chairs of these groups to present to our committee their activities. The co-chairs are to contact the chairs of these working groups.
- 3- A survey aimed to international students [Albdairat]. Issam explained that his suggestion over the meeting of 10/12. A suggestion was made by co-chair Antinao to link this potential activity with the Student Affairs committee. Michael asked what will be assessed in a survey. Suggested was an open diagnostic, over issues. Issam mentioned he is not sure how to do it and suggest to separate students from faculty. The same principle of connecting with faculty, applies here. Perhaps we can ask faculty but is also possible directly to address students. It can serve as an announcement to students to let them know of our presence. Michael indicated that this committee should not be doing the kind of work the OIS should be doing. Not in favor of any survey to students. It will create confusion opening a different portal for communication. Another element is that no member of this committee will have any power to do anything, and it will just relay this to OIS. Issam indicates that the idea is to help international students, as they might be themselves confused on to whom to address with concerns. We have a responsibility to international students and faculty. How can we connect with these students? Co-chair Antinao suggest to talk to John Wilkerson; he will be visiting here at the end of November. We can bring this issue to him. For example, enhanced communication via inserting ourselves in their website, so students know there is an alternative place to direct concerns. We know that university services are sometimes (especially U-wide) as accessible to students. We need to work on this. Issues worked during COVID but there is always improvements to be made. We should work together with OIS. Another element is that students feel closer to faculty than administration (at least they should in a healthy university). Antinao suggested we do not want to open a new front for us, but at the same time we need to address potential concerns. Co-chair Herrera mentions that addressing student concerns is part of our charges. We want to give them a voice, to express concerns. Another element is to reach out to international

organizations as suggested in our charge. A discussion followed on how involved we should be in the subject of international students. Chris added that putting ourselves in between the administration and the students is not a good idea. Acting on behalf of individual students should not be the way. Instead, do the survey, let's find what concerns are in a global sense, and after that act in the sense of policy with OIS. Contacting the organizations is also a great idea. Students probably will go and contact organizations and advisors first. We hear from these organizations and faculty, and then we could be telling OIS that faculty working with international students have certain concerns. It was agreed that we should talk to OIS to improve.

- 4- A discussion followed, Israel asked: do we know if OIS knows about concerns? Those concerns can be brought to the working groups (linked to point above). Is there a survey that they have? Co-chair Antinao mentioned that in our meeting with John Wilkerson last year there was no mention to a specific survey, they had a lot of data from the specific problems during COVID and post-COVID and that they were working with that data mostly. A link to the Minutes of that meeting last year is here: [December 2 meeting minutes.docx](#). Co-chair Herrera asks the question: if we bring people from [student] organizations- chairs or presidents, to listen to these concerns, should we gather information in this manner? Michael disagrees; he points that that is the job of OISS. He expands on the topic adding that our charge is misplaced when dealing with international students. Adam suggested that we could do this connection once and assess from the experience if we want to continue doing it or if we make OIS connect with them in a permanent fashion. Chris suggests that instead of surveying students, we should ask survey student organizations and directors of undergraduate studies or grad studies, who are likely to have heard from students the issues that could affect typically faculty for example. Co-chair Antinao adds that in case a survey is sought, OIS should be the survey conveyor, not the committee.

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Action items: Co-chairs Antinao and Herrera will contact co-chairs: David Daleke, Marietta Simpson, Co-Chair for [Student Success and Opportunity – Graduate, planning committee], Daniel Preston, Russell Valentino (Global Partnerships), Kathy Adams Riester, Jillian Kinzie [Student Success and Opportunity, Student Experience and Belonging]

Co-chairs will contact also Cate and Lana, from the differing opinions expressed here, regarding our charge respect to international students, and regarding OVPIA and the lack of participation of the office in the meetings.