



“Supporting International Students”

Proposed Motion: That the Board renew its commitment to help fund ISSS

Sponsor: Hannah Brock

Persons of Contact: Richard Bruce, Director, ISSS

Abigail Borchert, International Student Advisor, ISSS

Vicki Hamblin, Executive Director, CIS

Guest Speaker: Vicki Hamblin

Date: 10 November 2015

Attached Document

Attached is the 2013 proposal that was made to the AS Board

Background & Context

In 2013, the Center for International Studies received an annual commitment of \$50,500 from Enrollment and Student Services to help create an Office of International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS). This office has now been in operation for 2 ½ years and is staffed by a Director who is responsible for visa and immigration services, as well as a new International Student Advisor who works with students who come to Western either to earn a degree or as exchange students for a single year. As a result, we have been able to increase and improve the variety of services that we offer international students: from co-curricular activities to orientation sessions, social media connections, and on-going advice about the educational experience in the US. Specifically, we have followed through on the promises that we made in 2013: we have hired a new, full-time ISA, thereby doubling the staff that supports the international student experience, and we have added new orientation sessions and services, as well as more numerous activities both on and off campus. ISSS now works directly with Residence Life, Academic Advising, the Tutoring Center, the Research-Writing Studio, the Outdoor Center, Prevention and Wellness Services, and the Counseling Center to coordinate and review the services and opportunities in which international students -- as part of the larger student population -- can engage. ISSS also supports two student-initiated programs – the International Buddy Program and the International Cooking Class – that connect international and US students with the aim of creating a truly global campus environment.

Summary of Proposal

The financial commitment made by ESS in 2013 consisted of some permanent funding: \$16,000 from the Enrollment Fee and \$25,000 from Residence Life. The remainder of the support consisted of a three-year annual commitment of \$9,500 from Associated Students. We are asking that the AS Board renew its commitment so that ISSS can continue to operate at its current level. That funding will be used to continue to cover part of the ISA’s salary and benefits as well as part of the services that ISSS offers to students.

Fiscal Impacts

Without this continued support, ISSS will have to either reduce the support level or the variety of services that it currently offers to students.

Rationale

WWU has the smallest number of international students of all WA higher education institutions. This reality limits the kinds of diverse experiences that all Western students might benefit from. ISSS is working to increase the number of international students on campus so that we all learn more about perspectives, values and contexts that impact not only our local views of the world but the world's views of who we are as a nation.