

MINUTES
International Students and Scholars Committee
18 October 2017

Present: Dr. Warren Johnson (Chair and Secretary), Dr. Rejoice Addae, Mr. Christopher Boothman, Mr. Tarun Chincholi, Dr. Gauri Guha, Mr. Jon Mark Horton (proxy for Misato Tsuruta), Dr. Mihir, Mr. Sumon Roy, Dr. Thillainatarajan Sivakumaran, Ms. Shannon Wess, Ms. Victoria Williams, Ms. Qian Yu

Absent: Dr. Lynita Cooksey, Ms. Tracy Finch, Dr. Maurice Gipson, Dr. Evelyn Taylor, Dr. Karen Wheeler

Dr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm and reminded the committee that the topic for the day would be international student retention, and that he had asked committee members to reflect on two questions: (1) Would those with relevant statistical information on current enrollments and enrollment trends (reflecting retention) please bring that information to share? (2) Would all bring your thoughts on how we might improve our retention rates, no matter how good or bad they might be?

To address the first question, regarding statistics on international student retention, he gave the floor to Dr. Mihir, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness, who distributed statistics compiled by his office (see appendix). The most significant numbers for these purposes are on the document "Retention & Success for ALL Students," top right, which show that the overall success rate for domestic students in the Fall 2016 cohort (i.e., graduated or returned in the following Spring) was 79.1%, and that for international students 79.7%, which, statistically speaking, means international students are about as successful as domestic students overall. Dr. Johnson commented that while the success rate of the two groups is similar, the reasons why international students do not graduate or return are likely different from those of domestic students. Dr. Sivakumaran commented that this past year we lost students for four basic reasons: (1) a number of Nepali students applied because of earthquakes but could not afford a four-year school, and came with the intention of transferring to two-year institutions; (2) the Saudi government no longer provides scholarships except for students attending the top 200 universities in the USA, and A-State is not in that select group (plus some Saudi students had been taking online classes, in violation of scholarship guidelines); (3) other students cannot support themselves financially (even if for immigration purposes they were able to show the required level of financial resources) and so transfer, and finally, (4) some students have been made to feel unwelcome by instructors.

In terms of numbers of students, applications were down from 2500 in Fall 2016 to 1500 this year, with considerably fewer actually enrolling. Dr. Mihir commented that most institutions have similar problems. Dr. Sivakumaran said that A-State has difficulty attracting many Chinese and Korean students because of the university is not highly ranked. However, on the plus side, it is affordable compared with other schools and some programs are particularly attractive to international students, including those in Engineering, as well as majors in Management and

Computer Science. In the past, students could more easily extend their stay in the USA through the OPT (Optional Practical Training) program and eventually get H1B visas, but because of increasing restrictiveness by the federal government, students are more likely now to choose Canada, the United Kingdom, or New Zealand. Some embassies and consulates have been known to give fewer or no visas; this has in particular affected students from Nepal (undergraduates) and India (graduate students). International Student Services now has a part-time retention specialist, who meets with incoming international students and tracks students, concentrating on those with failing grades at midterm. Dr. Sivakumaran also mentioned plans for courses to assist international students. Dr. Johnson, who is also involved with curricular development, informed the committee that he had already been in contact with ESL and Undergraduate Studies regarding support courses in writing that the Dept. of English, Philosophy, and World Languages was interested in providing, and that he will follow up this Spring, once Undergraduate Studies has had a chance to review its own offerings in this area.

Dr. Mihir then asked the several students present their views. Mr. Roy mentioned that he knew of cases where graduate students left because of their inability to get a GA or RA position, and that even if they did get one, they had to pay in-state tuition as well as fees. He also noted that some students get rejected for a visa by embassies and consulates. Ms. Yu brought up the issue of required international student insurance, which has seen increases this year. Mr. Horton described a situation where he encountered a mother of an international student who made a special trip to the USA to try to get help for her child, an A-State student, but was unable to get any assistance from either Disability Services or the Counseling Center, and how he went out of his way to attempt to resolve the student's problem when certain staff were unhelpful. He suggested better outreach to parents of international students, mentioned a new program to take international students around, and expressed the view that he would like to see more support for international students from faculty and staff. Dr. Guha suggested a section of the International Student Services Web site be targeted at parents of current or prospective international students.

Dr. Sivakumaran mentioned some other problems relating to the integration of international students into the campus community. Some students have been known simply to stay in their rooms or apartments, and while International Student Services tries to work with them, that office cannot keep tabs on everyone. The Chinese and Indian Student Associations have been useful in making students from those nationalities feel better connected. Dr. Guha mentioned that while some students, particularly Indians, are more open, others do not feel able to share their concerns. Faculty are fearful intervening sometimes because of legal concerns. He suggested that the International Student Association try to have a finger on the pulse of this issue. Dr. Mihir asked if there was a listserv for international students and staff; the answer is no. Mr. Boothman suggested Facebook groups as a possibility for disseminating information about what is out there in the Jonesboro community and for getting international students more connected with each other and the campus. (He prefers social media, since students have a tendency to delete administrative e-mail unread.) Dr. Sivakumaran noted that International Student Services has tried various initiatives, such as an entertainment shuttle and a bus service to Memphis, but they were poorly used and not cost effective. The International Student Services and English Learning Academy Building will have a lounge area to address the problem that international students have nowhere to go especially on weekends, and ISS will do more local (i.e., low cost) events, such as Game Nights. Mr. Chincholi suggested that students with

problems (other than academic issues) could most effectively be addressed through other international students. Dr. Guha expressed his willingness to help students if he can.

Dr. Johnson said in summary that the meeting had been fruitful in bringing forth a number of suggestions, but that the conversation could be continued at a later meeting, and adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Appendix

Retention & Success Rate of ALL Students Arkansas State University												
	Fall 2015						Fall 2016					
	Graduated	Returned	% Successful			Graduated	Returned	% Successful				
	Fall 2015	2015-16	2016	Graduated	Returned	Successful	Fall 2016	2016-17	2017	Graduated	Returned	Successful
Total Enrollment	13,410	3,058	7,620	22.8%	56.8%	79.6%	14,085	3,347	7,801	23.8%	55.4%	79.1%
Internationals	760	203	443	26.7%	58.3%	85.0%	851	192	486	22.6%	57.1%	79.7%
Domestic	12,650	2,855	7,177	22.6%	56.7%	79.3%	13,234	3,155	7,315	23.8%	55.3%	79.1%
UG	9,592	1,567	6,083	16.3%	63.4%	79.8%	9,839	1,615	6,150	16.4%	62.5%	78.9%
GR	3,818	1,491	1,537	39.1%	40.3%	79.3%	4,246	1,732	1,651	40.8%	38.9%	79.7%
Face-to-Face	10,726	1,958	6,697	18.3%	62.4%	80.7%	10,689	1,954	6,643	18.3%	62.1%	80.4%
AP Online	2,473	1,042	842	42.1%	34.0%	76.2%	3,171	1,330	1,051	41.9%	33.1%	75.1%
ASU Online	211	58	81	27.5%	38.4%	65.9%	225	63	107	28.0%	47.6%	75.6%
African American	1,788	343	972	19.2%	54.4%	73.5%	1,836	348	970	19.0%	52.8%	71.8%
Hispanic American	324	65	190	20.1%	58.6%	78.7%	350	63	187	18.0%	53.4%	71.4%
White	9,996	2,332	5,708	23.3%	57.1%	80.4%	10,448	2,599	5,837	24.9%	55.9%	80.7%
Male	5,446	1,118	3,170	20.5%	58.2%	78.7%	5,625	1,224	3,143	21.8%	55.9%	77.6%
Female	7,964	1,940	4,450	24.4%	55.9%	80.2%	8,460	2,123	4,658	25.1%	55.1%	80.2%
UG Ages 25 or Above	1,855	476	923	25.7%	49.8%	75.4%	1,908	480	918	25.2%	48.1%	73.3%
Transfer UG	897	20	620	2.2%	69.1%	71.3%	874	27	591	3.1%	67.6%	70.7%
Honor Student	1,195	180	946	15.1%	79.2%	94.2%	1,211	251	881	20.7%	72.7%	93.5%

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Retention & Success Rate of Full-Time New Freshmen Arkansas State University												
	Fall 2015						Fall 2016					
	Graduated	Returned	% Successful			Graduated	Returned	% Successful				
	Fall 2015	2015-16	2016	Graduated	Returned	Successful	Fall 2016	2016-17	2017	Graduated	Returned	Successful
FT New Freshmen	1,542	--	1,155	--	74.9%	74.9%	1,609	--	1,172	--	72.8%	72.8%
African American	160	--	114	--	71.3%	71.3%	183	--	127	--	69.4%	69.4%
Hispanic American	45	--	34	--	75.6%	75.6%	55	--	39	--	70.9%	70.9%
White	1,205	--	909	--	75.4%	75.4%	1,186	--	900	--	75.9%	75.9%
Male	709	--	514	--	72.5%	72.5%	734	--	496	--	67.6%	67.6%
Female	833	--	641	--	77.0%	77.0%	875	--	676	--	77.3%	77.3%
UG Ages 25 or Above	9	--	6	--	66.7%	66.7%	5	--	4	--	80.0%	80.0%
Honor Student	318	--	285	--	89.6%	89.6%	239	--	213	--	89.1%	89.1%
Conditionally Admitted	299	--	183	--	61.2%	61.2%	348	--	215	--	61.8%	61.8%
HS GPA Range		--										
No H.S. GPA	82	--	63	--	76.8%	76.8%	124	--	61	--	49.2%	49.2%
0.01-1.99	0	--	--	--	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	--
2.00-2.24	0	--	--	--	--	--	3	--	1	--	33.3%	33.3%
2.25-2.49	32	--	11	--	34.4%	34.4%	25	--	16	--	64.0%	64.0%
2.50-2.74	73	--	36	--	49.3%	49.3%	87	--	46	--	52.9%	52.9%
2.75-2.99	96	--	57	--	59.4%	59.4%	127	--	74	--	58.3%	58.3%
3.00-3.24	171	--	107	--	62.6%	62.6%	181	--	113	--	62.4%	62.4%
3.25-3.49	233	--	158	--	67.8%	67.8%	224	--	152	--	67.9%	67.9%
3.50-3.74	307	--	236	--	76.9%	76.9%	288	--	223	--	77.4%	77.4%
3.75-4.00	548	--	487	--	88.9%	88.9%	550	--	486	--	88.4%	88.4%
ACT Comp Range												
No Score	98	--	73	--	74.5%	74.5%	135	--	70	--	51.9%	51.9%
1-14	2	--	1	--	50.0%	50.0%	0	--	--	--	--	--
15-16	8	--	5	--	62.5%	62.5%	7	--	3	--	42.9%	42.9%
17-18	38	--	25	--	65.8%	65.8%	39	--	28	--	71.8%	71.8%
19-20	231	--	155	--	67.1%	67.1%	270	--	170	--	63.0%	63.0%
21-23	433	--	301	--	69.5%	69.5%	465	--	335	--	72.0%	72.0%
24-26	374	--	282	--	75.4%	75.4%	347	--	277	--	79.8%	79.8%
27-29	263	--	225	--	85.6%	85.6%	234	--	191	--	81.6%	81.6%
30 & Above	95	--	88	--	92.6%	92.6%	112	--	98	--	87.5%	87.5%

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Arkansas State University : Fall Records since 2000		
End of 11th Class Day - 9/6/2017		Preliminary 2017
▶ Total enrollment 14,085 in Fall 2016	2017 Includes Queretaro, Mexico	14,125
▶ Undergraduate enrollment 10,168 in Fall 2012		9,580
▶ Graduate enrollment 4,246 in Fall 2016		4,336
▶ Doctoral Program enrollment 280 in Fall 2016		291
▶ First-Time-Freshmen 1,902 in 2008		1,427
▶ Concurrent enrollment 620 in Fall 2016		663
▶ Male enrollment 5,625 in Fall 2016		5,334
▶ Female enrollment 8,522 in Fall 2011		8,582
▶ African American enrollment 2,133 in Fall 2011		1,839
▶ Hispanic enrollment 350 in Fall 2016	ASUJ only	360
▶ Minority enrollment 2,714 (19.5%) in Fall 2012		2,647
▶ In-State enrollment 10,761 in Fall 2010		10,091
▶ Out-of-State enrollment (excluding Internationals) 2,818 in Fall 2016		3,111
▶ International New Freshmen enrollment 124 in Fall 2016		34
▶ International enrollment 858 in Fall 2012		714
▶ Total Credit hours 146,821 in Fall 2012		141,210
▶ Total Full-Time Equivalent 10,107 in Fall 2016		9,780
▶ Number of Non-Traditional Undergraduate students 2,639 in 2010		1,843
▶ ACT Comp Score for First-Time-Freshmen 23.9 in Fall 2014		24.0
▶ High School GPA for First-Time-Freshmen 3.51 in Fall 2015		3.56
▶ Largest number of students staying in University Housing 3,023 (22.5%) in Fall 2014		2,931
▶ One-Year Retention Rate for Full-Time, First-Time-Freshmen 76.0% (2014 Cohort)		72.8%
▶ Two-Year Retention Rate for Full-Time, First-Time-Freshmen 65.2% (2014 Cohort)		63.0%

Prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness : 09.06.2017

Arkansas State University Historical QuickStats @ ASU

Historical Degrees Conferred by Fiscal Year

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	5 Yr Avg
Total Degrees Conferred	3,997	3,992	3,780	3,778	3,987	3,907
By Degree						
Associate	456	521	392	382	512	453
Bachelor's	1,641	1,721	1,824	1,766	1,713	1,733
Graduate Certificates	8	11	12	15	23	14
Master's	1,800	1,600	1,316	1,251	1,358	1,465
Specialist	52	89	191	321	330	197
Doctoral	40	50	45	43	51	46
By Gender						
Male	1,287	1,318	1,278	1,319	1,397	1,320
Female	2,710	2,674	2,502	2,459	2,590	2,587
By Ethnicity						
African American	470	500	453	512	518	491
American Indian	15	20	17	23	24	20
Asian American	16	20	27	28	20	22
Hispanic American	67	61	64	67	86	69
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4	4	3	4	4	4
Two or More Races	32	44	36	45	54	42
White American	3,085	3,080	2,899	2,851	3,006	2,984
Ethnicity Unknown	167	91	88	47	54	89
Nonresident Alien	141	172	193	201	221	186
By College						
Agriculture & Technology	95	116	112	126	134	117
Business	343	344	391	384	351	363
Media & Communication	102	105	108	121	98	107
Education & Behavioral Science	1,859	1,681	1,544	1,555	1,633	1,654
Engineering	47	86	37	45	59	55
Fine Arts	57	55	57	69	60	60
Humanities & Social Sciences	244	292	275	248	274	267
Nursing & Health Professions	597	630	634	601	635	619
Sciences & Mathematics	185	176	175	186	183	181
University College	468	507	447	443	560	485

Arkansas State University Historical QuickStats @ ASU

Historical Fall Undergraduate Enrollment

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5 Yr Avg
Total Headcount	10,168	10,098	9,857	9,592	9,839	9,911
By Classification						
All Freshmen	2,658	2,447	2,348	2,173	2,205	2,366
Sophomores	1,814	1,829	1,796	1,778	1,702	1,784
Juniors	2,243	2,146	2,155	2,157	2,194	2,179
Seniors	2,736	2,859	2,807	2,766	2,807	2,795
By Student Load						
Full-Time	7,822	7,645	7,465	7,295	7,305	7,506
Average Hours Enrolled	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.6	14.5
Part-Time	2,346	2,453	2,392	2,297	2,534	2,404
Average Hours Enrolled	6.8	6.6	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8
By Age						
Under 25	7,716	7,836	7,776	7,737	7,931	7,799
25 & Older	2,452	2,262	2,081	1,855	1,908	2,112
Average Age	23.5	23.2	23.0	22.7	22.6	23.0
By Gender						
Male	4,330	4,279	4,208	4,112	4,185	4,223
Female	5,838	5,819	5,649	5,480	5,654	5,688
By Ethnicity						
African American	1,563	1,410	1,364	1,272	1,256	1,373
American Indian	47	39	41	34	28	38
American Asian	73	79	76	77	83	78
Hispanic American	207	211	229	246	260	231
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	7	9	13	8	7	9
Two or More Races	133	167	171	189	200	172
White American	7,342	7,477	7,361	7,197	7,368	7,349
Ethnicity Unknown	185	139	84	66	73	109
Nonresident Alien	611	567	518	503	564	553
By College						
Agriculture & Technology	438	425	450	465	487	453
Business	1,371	1,343	1,378	1,352	1,317	1,352
Education & Behavioral Science	1,721	1,655	1,496	1,351	1,239	1,492
Engineering	353	342	377	414	422	382
Fine Arts	377	381	400	351	338	369
Humanities & Social Sciences	867	735	687	639	724	730
Media & Communications	303	320	317	337	408	337
Nursing & Health Professions	1,705	1,632	1,656	1,741	1,789	1,705
Sciences & Mathematics	878	915	916	912	986	921
University College	2,155	2,350	2,180	2,030	2,129	2,169
By Origin						
From Arkansas	8,549	8,592	8,372	8,118	8,223	8,371
From Missouri	417	375	368	408	443	402
From Tennessee	237	212	197	196	196	208
Total From Out-of-State	1,008	939	967	971	1,052	987
From Foreign Countries	611	567	518	503	564	553

Arkansas State University
Historical QuickStats @ ASU

Historical Fall Graduate Enrollment

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	5 Yr Avg
Total Headcount	3,709	3,454	3,287	3,818	4,246	3,703
By Student Load						
Full-Time	779	739	661	736	756	734
Average Hours Enrolled	10.8	11.1	11.3	11.5	11.6	11.3
Part-Time	2,930	2,715	2,626	3,082	3,490	2,969
Average Hours Enrolled	3.7	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.0
By Age						
Under 25	554	515	539	639	696	589
25 & Older	3,155	2,939	2,748	3,179	3,550	3,114
Average Age	34.1	34.0	33.8	33.7	33.7	33.9
By Gender						
Male	1,135	1,107	1,139	1,334	1,440	1,231
Female	2,574	2,347	2,148	2,484	2,806	2,472
By Ethnicity						
African American	545	513	470	516	580	525
American Indian	19	18	30	20	31	24
Asian American	16	18	26	34	33	25
Hispanic American	59	56	64	78	90	69
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	1	3	4	3	2
Two or More Races	45	44	38	53	49	46
White American	2,730	2,518	2,383	2,799	3,080	2,702
Ethnicity Unknown	48	46	45	57	93	58
Nonresident Alien	247	240	228	257	287	252
By Degree						
Master's	2,944	2,593	2,477	2,911	3,211	2,827
Specialist	376	506	490	546	667	517
Doctoral	245	222	227	269	280	249
Other Graduates	144	133	93	92	88	110
By College						
Agriculture & Technology	26	25	38	41	43	35
Business	213	232	199	187	180	202
Education & Behavioral Science	2,397	2,189	2,029	2,457	2,801	2,375
Engineering	18	12	31	54	68	-
Fine Arts	19	18	14	9	9	14
Humanities & Social Sciences	248	263	296	315	346	294
Media & Communications	101	81	57	42	50	66
Nursing & Health Professions	473	443	444	488	521	474
Sciences & Mathematics	152	137	144	189	198	164
By Origin						
From Arkansas	2,159	1,845	1,774	2,033	2,193	2,001
From Missouri	160	163	187	259	304	215
From Tennessee	212	263	168	167	214	205
Total From Out-of-State	1,303	1,369	1,285	1,528	1,766	1,450
From Foreign Countries	247	240	228	257	287	252

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