

CSULB International Education Committee

Minutes #4: Tuesday December 10, 2024

Noon - 01:45pm (via Zoom)

<https://csulb.zoom.us/j/86487568407>

Attendees: Jan Haldipur, Jeet Joshee, Sharon Olson, Eugenia Kim, Hema Ramachandran, Laura Gonzalez, Seung-hoon Jeong, Caitlin Fouratt, John Wang, Alessandro Russo, Christian Bracho, Fangyuan Tian, Ming Chen, Marina Aghekyan, Ashley Carter, Mark Hansberry Maples, Amr Morsy, Susan Shanley, Ho Wook Shin.

Welcome:

- November 12 meeting minutes approved.
- Approval of today's agenda.

Quick recap:

The meeting discussed the potential implications of the new US administration for international students and a potential partnership with Ming Chuan University in Taiwan. There were also updates on the COIL website and International Education Week.

Summary:

International Students and US Administration:

The meeting involved a discussion about the potential implications of the new US administration on international students. Jeet shared that he had sent an advisory letter to all international students advising them to return before January 20th. The letter was not a policy but an advisory, as the exact implications of the new administration were unclear. The group also discussed the importance of students carrying all necessary documents, including their I-20, and the potential for increased scrutiny at ports of entry. The conversation ended with anticipating a healthy incoming class of new students in the spring.

Ming Chuan University Partnership Update:

Jeet provided an update on a potential partnership with Ming Chuan University in Taiwan. Ming Chuan has a U.S. campus in Michigan that they want to relocate to CSULB. The partnership would include a 2+2 transfer program, graduate programs like business, and potentially a Chinese teaching credential program. Around 200 transfer students and smaller graduate cohorts are anticipated initially. This would be a new type of partnership for CSULB, with Ming Chuan renting space on campus for staff to support their students. Discussions are ongoing, with a potential visit to Ming Chuan in March.

2+2 Program and International Student Housing:

In the meeting, Jeet clarified that the 2+2 program, which involves students completing two years of study at their home institution and two years at CSULB, is possible but requires articulation. He shared that they had faced difficulties in the past due to disagreements over course equivalencies, particularly in the GE area. John Wang asked about the language requirements for international students, to which Jeet responded that they would need to submit their TOEFL and IELTS scores. John also inquired about housing for these students, and Jeet explained that while CSULB does not provide much on-campus housing, the university is planning to rent space on campus to provide support services and help students find housing, both on and off campus.

Summer Program and Study Abroad Updates:

Sharon Olson shared updates on study abroad programs. Sharon reported that they had confirmed their spring cohort, with about 150 students going abroad for the spring, including 72 to exchange programs, 25 for CSU IP, and 24 for London semester. She also mentioned that they had a good winter session and a healthy number of faculty applications for summer session. However, she expressed disappointment over the low number of Gilman scholarship recipients; we had 40 applicants, and only 5 received awards.

Sharon also mentioned 40 short-term applications for summer tuition, partial tuition waivers, and scholarships. The deadline for the internal ASI grant applications for study abroad programs is March 11.

COIL Website Location and Ownership:

The committee discusses the location and ownership of the COIL website <https://sites.csulb.edu/coil/>. Caitlin raised the issue that as websites are being migrated to Drupal, they don't know where the COIL website is currently hosted. Jeet suggested housing it under International Education and Global Engagement, with Laura Gonzalez and his executive assistant having administrator access. Alessandro and Hema clarified that the COIL website was previously created independently on a WordPress site hosted on a CSULB domain. Jeet acknowledged the existing content can be easily moved to a new web address with the CSULB domain.

Updates:

- Caitlin Fouratt, Director of the Global Studies Institute, shared that they are working on timing for the Curriss lecture and will inform the committee once a venue and date are booked.
- Eugenia Kim mentioned that they sent out a letter to students about travel precautions for returning before January 20th.
- Laura Gonzalez provided updates on the Education Abroad Subcommittee, including the approval of a full slate of candidates for London, Costa Rica, and South Korea. The team also discussed the website and the need for more faculty training.

- Jeet mentioned that three faculty members had attended a training at Florida International University, which is a leader in the COIL system.

Amr, an IEC member from the College of Engineering, expressed his desire to increase the college's representation in international student recruitment initiatives. Jeet suggested that Amr could collaborate with the recruitment and admissions director, Sean Cochran, to leverage the event for international recruitment. The team agreed to continue the discussion in future meetings.

Sharon was tasked with communicating the committee's decisions to Rich Haesly, who would then send letters to the faculty. Marina asked about the training process before the trip, and Sharon confirmed that it would be pre-recorded and available on the Canvas website. Sharon also agreed to send out the necessary forms for the students to sign.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 11th, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm.