



IEC Monthly Meeting Notes

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, 12pm

Attendees: Jan Haldipur, Jeet Joshee, Sharon Olson, Eugenia Kim, Laura Emery, Caitlin Fouratt, John Wang, Alessandro Russo, Christian Bracho, Min Gu, Marina Aghekyan, Ashley Carter, Mark Hansberry Maples, Amr Morsy, Susan Shanley, Ashley Carter, Ho Wook Shin, Bo Fu, Elaine Haglund.

Quick Recap

Discussed the University's protocol for handling immigration enforcement inquiries and the potential impact of competing forces within the White House on student visas. Updates were also shared on international students, study abroad programs, and scholarships, and the desire to create a stronger learning community through the COIL program.

Summary

- December meeting minutes and February agenda approved.
- The next meeting is Tuesday, March 11.

University's Immigration Enforcement Protocol

Jeet informed the committee about the University's protocol for handling immigration enforcement inquiries. Faculty and staff are instructed to say, "I'm not authorized to address this matter" and direct any inquiries to Brotman Hall 320, where Scott Appel, the VP for Admin and Finance, is designated to handle such requests. Jeet advises everyone to familiarize themselves with the protocol and refers to a website with updated guidance. He also mentions that DACA students are being advised not to study abroad due to uncertainties about re-entry. While international students are not currently targeted, Jeet emphasizes the need for vigilance and preparedness in the current uncertain environment.

Student Visas and Competing White House Forces

Jeet discussed the potential impact of competing forces within the White House on student visas. He mentioned that there are two opposing forces: one led by Elon Musk advocating for more international talent, and the other led by immigration hawks like Stephen Miller who want to stop everything. Jeet suggested that the pro-international side seems to be winning, but it's hard to predict the future. He also mentioned that the State Department hasn't fully recovered from the past 8 years and that there are visa backlogs. Jeet also discussed the potential impact on the Gilman scholarships, stating that he hasn't heard of any plans to stop them but that they are under review.

International Students, Programs, and Scholarships

The meeting involved discussions about various topics, including updates on international students, study abroad programs, and scholarships. Eugenia shared her efforts to support international students and ensure they are aware of their rights and responsibilities. Sharon updated the group on the progress of their study abroad programs, including the successful launch of semester programs in South Korea, London, and Costa Rica. She also mentioned concerns about the South Africa semester program and the need for volunteers to review scholarship applications. The group also discussed potential changes in summer tuition and the postponement of an invited guest from the USAID to give the Kurz lecture. Lastly, Caitlin announced the awarding of four \$2,500 scholarships for international internships and plans for a salon event with a Peace Corps recruiter.

COIL Program Expansion

The meeting focused on updates and discussions about the COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) program and its potential for expansion. Sharon highlighted the success of the program in the past and the need for more faculty involvement. Caitlin discussed the need for institutional training and the potential for a learning community for faculty interested in developing COIL projects. Amr suggested the possibility of establishing courses with international partners, similar to the COIL program, for the study abroad program.

Caitlin proposed the idea of forming a team to participate in an institutional startup learning community over the next few months, sponsored by the Global Studies Institute. Amr expressed interest in joining the team. There was a discussion about the COIL website, which was previously managed by Luke and Maria, both of whom have left the university. Laura offered to help convert the website from WordPress to Drupal and suggested that it could be housed on the Global Studies Institute website. Caitlin agreed to this proposal.

Miscellaneous

The team also discussed the challenges and benefits of faculty-led study abroad programs, with John emphasizing the importance of thorough student recruitment interviews and Marine highlighting the need for flexibility in program planning, as students can drop out at the last minute.

Lastly, Amr introduced a new student organization affiliated with the International Geosynthetics Society, suggesting its potential for international networking opportunities. The team agreed to continue exploring ways to promote international perspectives in student organizations.