

International Education Advisory Council

Minutes - Draft

Friday, 09/11/2020 – [Committee Pilot Page BBCU](#)

Attendance:

Arnab Shaw, John Conteh, Thomas Fenton, Yi-Hui Lee, Wakiuru Wamwara, Dane Daniel, Michelle Streeter-Ferrari (UCIE), Joy Wanderi (UCIE)

Minutes:

- I. Meeting began around 2:00pm

- II. Updates:
 - a. University Center for International Education (UCIE)

Michelle Streeter-Ferrari updated the committee on international enrollment for Fall 2020, changes to the UCIE's organization and operations, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international students at Wright State.

There are 425 total international students including 36 new students. There are an additional 25 students who are enrolled overseas. This is compared to 144 new international students out of a total of 591 in Fall 2019. Many embassies did not open in time for students to be issued visas for Fall, and 370 students admitted for Fall 2020 have deferred to Spring 2021 and Fall 2021.

The UCIE has reviewed their agent partnerships and has revised its tiering structure for payments to encourage higher recruitment numbers from fewer agents. The UCIE is also seeking to diversify agent bases with contracts pending for agents from new recruiting markets.

All study abroad programs have been cancelled for Fall. It still has not been decided if they will run in the Spring.

Michelle Streeter-Ferrari and Joy Wanderi updated the committee on challenges international students are facing because of COVID-19. Many students are struggling with expenses and carrying balances over from Spring. Some either are unable to access funding from abroad, or they have had changes to their means of support as a result of

the pandemic. They have issues enrolling for Fall courses and face visa status issues. Some can't return home because of lock downs, and they can't pay their fees and enroll. Michelle and Joy also discussed changes to student health insurance policy. While they have separated the premiums for Spring and Summer semesters, the cost has gone up and international students are still being mandated coverage.

III. Sub-committee AY2019-20 Recommendations:

The committee reviewed the IEAC charge and its report and recommendations from AY2019-20.

IV. Discussion:

a. Committee priorities AY2020-21

The committee members discussed several priorities to support current international students at Wright State:

The committee should continue its participation in discussions involving international students and health insurance policies.

The committee should also look for means to support international students experiencing financial strife as a result of the pandemic.

The committee should be involved in efforts to support the well-being and inclusion of Wright State's international students, especially those who face isolation and loneliness as a result of decreased levels of interaction as a result of learning remotely.

b. Fall meeting schedule:

The next IEAC meetings are scheduled for October 9th, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm, and November 13th 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Both meetings will be hosted on the [Committee Pilot Page BBCU](#)

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.