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International Student Advisory Board

International Student Advisory Board

Spring 2021 Information Session

isab-ui@uiowa.edu



ISAB History

- ISAB, established in 2014, is a joint initiative between University of Iowa Student Government, Graduate & Professional Student Government, International Programs, and the Division of Student Life.





ISAB'S Mission

The International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) seeks to voice international student concerns, to advocate for international student needs and improve international student experience, and to advocate for a more inclusive campus environment for international students.

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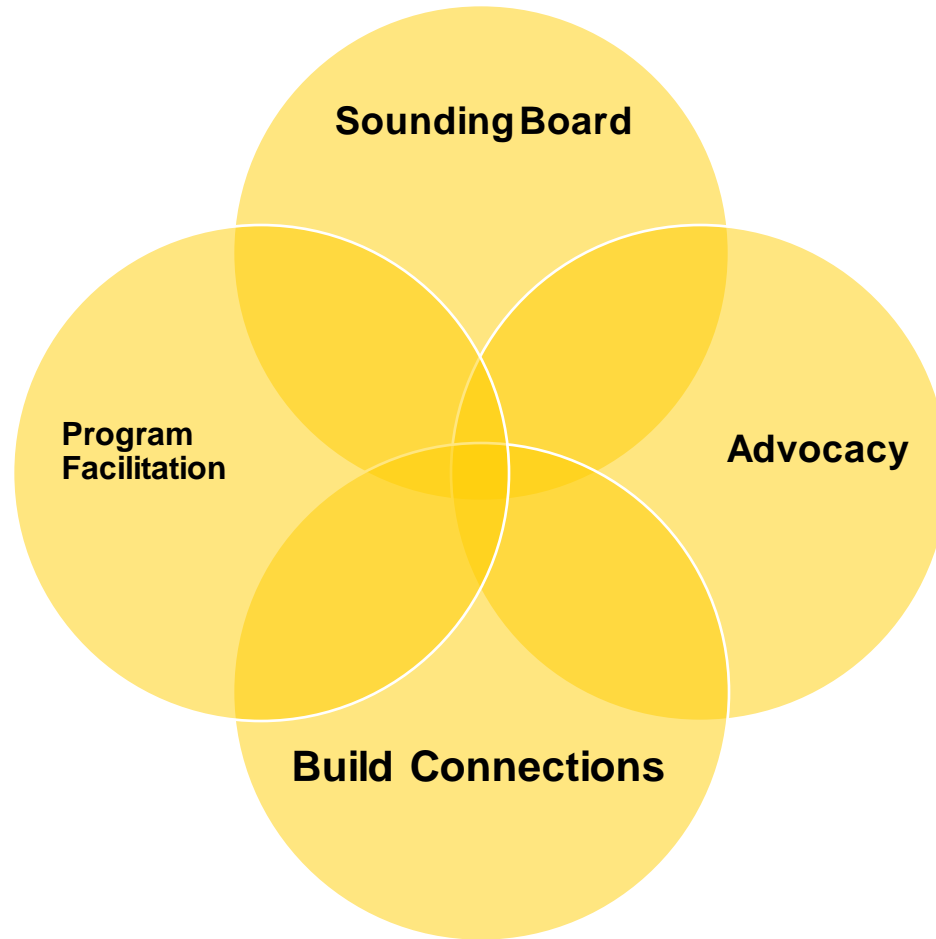
International Student Advisory Board

Meaning of Our Logo

- The globe and the different color dots representing people from across the world.
- Three dots together look like a person; therefore, it also looks like a group of people sitting around the table, highlighting the "advisory" function of the board.



What We Do



ISAB As A Sounding Board

Meeting with University Departments and Administrators

- During our weekly meeting, we invite different university departments to share what they do, and questions they have regarding working with international students. ISAB members will provide input or recommendations.

- Departments that ISAB has met with so far in 2020 – 2021:
 - International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
 - Division of Student Life
 - Graduate College

Meeting with University Departments and Administrators

→ During 2020-2021, we have met with:

1. Dr. Maria Bruno, Executive Director for Belonging & Inclusion and Assistant to the Vice President of Student Life
2. Russ Ganim, Dean of International Programs.
3. Elizabeth Tovar, Associate VP of Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
4. Mara Smith, Vice President of USG (Undergraduate Student Government).
5. Angie Reams, the Associate Vice President and Dean of Students.
6. Sarah Hansen, the Vice President of Student Life.
7. Brandon Paulson, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services.
8. Elizabeth Savelkoul, Program Coordinator, Graduate College
9. Jen Teitle, Program Coordinator, Graduate College
10. Vivian Sheridan, Program Coordinator, Graduate College

ISAB As An Advocacy Group

Advocacy on behalf of international students

- Advocated for a staff position within Division of Student Life to focus on the needs of international students (2016 – 2017)
- Created International Constituency Senator seat in Undergraduate Student Government (2017 – 2018)

Advocacy on behalf of international students

- Advocated for free international textbooks shipping (2020-2021).
- Conducted a survey about international students' concerns, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic (2020-2021).
- Created infographics for departments and colleges about supporting international students in different time zones in the pandemic (2020 - 2021)
- Member serves as an international student representative on English language testing working group (2020 – 2021)

Building Connections

Building Connections with International Student Organizations

- ISAB hosts Global Roundtable, a leadership roundtable that brings together international and multicultural student organizations to share ideas and network.

- Around 20 organizations participated in the Roundtable in Fall 2020.

Program & Project Facilitation

Programs – Get To Know Us

- Paired international student organizations with domestic student organizations for interaction and collaboration.
- This year: Four student orgs and two pairs
- Entirely virtual
- Collaboration with The Conversation Center

Programs - Mentorship Program

- Current students help incoming international students with pre-arrival preparation, transportation, and adjustments
- Peer mentoring on academic and cultural adjustment/enrichment and professional development
- Referring and encouraging students to utilize on-campus resources
- Offering channels/opportunities for getting feedback from new students



Internal Development

In addition to the main functions of the board, ISAB also continue to develop as a group.

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Internal Development

- Continuing to grow individually and as a board is essential to fulfilling ISAB's mission to advocate for international students.
 - Retreats
 - NCBI Training
 - Implicit Bias Training
 - Networking
 - Alumni Reunion
 - Additional skill building as needed



➤ And we have fun!



ISAB's Future Direction

ISAB's Future Direction

- ISAB was created to fill the gap in providing international student perspectives
- Moving forward, ISAB will focus more on advisory & advocacy effort



Why ISAB?

Why ISAB?

- Advocate for international student needs
- Voice international student concerns
- Improve international student experience
- Advocate for a more inclusive campus for international students.



Who are we looking for?



Who are we looking for?

- Undergraduate, graduate, and professional students
- Passionate about advocating for international students and improving international student experience
- Interested in giving back to the international student community

2021 – 2022 ISAB Commitment & Leadership

2021 – 2022 ISAB Commitment

- Two full-day retreats:
 - Saturday, August 28, 2021, 9:00am-4:00pm
 - Saturday, January 22, 2022, 9:00am-4:00pm
- Grad & Undergrad Monthly Joint Meetings from 9:00am-10:30am on following Saturdays:
 - October 2, November 6, February 26, March 26, and April 23
- Undergrad weekly board meetings from 9:00am-10:00am on Saturdays or 5:00pm-6:00pm on Fridays
- Grad bi-monthly board meetings (scheduled based on availability)

2021 – 2022 ISAB Leadership

- Attend weekly leadership team meeting
- Take lead on initiatives and communication
- Attend additional meetings, such as meetings with student governments, administrators, etc.
- Leadership team members must be available for transition meetings during the summer (mostly via Zoom)

Questions?



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Thank you!

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