



# ISAB

International Student Advisory Board

2018 – 2019

# 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 Mission

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

## What We Do

**In order to advocate for international student needs, improve international student experience, and to bridge the gap between international and domestic students, ISAB ...**

### Serves as a Sounding Board

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We provide recommendation to assist university departments on improving services or projects to better serve international students. We also gather feedback from international students.

### Builds Connections

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We connect with international student organizations, as well as other organizations on campus to hear their stories, needs, and concerns.

### Facilitates Programs

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We facilitate programs to connect international and domestic students and to increase their involvement on campus.



# Sounding Board

# Meeting with University Departments

During our weekly meeting, we invite different university departments to share what they do, and questions they have in regards to working with international students. ISAB members will provide input or recommendations. ISAB also hosted an International Student Town Hall to gather feedback from international students (Spring 2018).

Departments that ISAB has met with so far in 2018 – 2019:

- International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
- Multicultural and International Student Support and Engagement (MISSE)
- University Dining
- Participated in the University Listening Sessions along with a few international student organizations
- University Counseling Service
- Division of Student Life



# Building Connections

# Building Connections with International Student Organizations

During our weekly meeting, we also invite representatives from different student organizations to share what they do, their stories, and their concerns.

Student organizations that we connect with in 2018 – 2019:

- Organization for the Active Support of International Students
- Heart Workshop
- Indian Student Alliance
- South Asian Student Alliance
- Dance Marathon
- Chinese Students and Scholars Association

As a result of the meeting with student organization, **Global Student Coalition**, a leadership roundtable that brings together international and multicultural student organizations to share ideas and network has started.



# Program Facilitation

# Program Facilitation – Get To Know Us

During this academic year, ISAB has been working on revitalizing the Get To Know Us (GTKU) program.

The Get To Know Us program, started by UISG, aims to pair a group with primarily international students (e.g., international student organizations) with a group that is primarily domestic students (a fraternity or sorority chapter, or a student organization that is primarily domestic students) to learn from each other and build meaningful cross-cultural connections.

## **Progress so far:**

- Met with Dr. Nelson to learn about the program history
- Working to create learning outcomes and materials for the program
- Met with Fraternity and Sorority Life to gauge interest and gather feedback for the program

## **Moving forward:**

- Promotional video
- 3-year funding plan
- Develop toolkits and training materials for participating groups



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

# Internal Development

Continuing to grow individually and as a board is essential to fulfilling ISAB's mission to advocate for international students and facilitate intercultural interaction.

## Retreats:

- **Bonding**
- **Networking**
- **Skill building**
- Active listening
- Facilitation
- Note taking
- Implicit bias

## Training and Inventories:

- **NCBI**
- **Intercultural Development Inventories**
- **Intercultural Conflict Styles**



# Impact & Challenges

## Impact

- Participated in important campus conversations
- Increased outreach to a wider range of international and multicultural student organizations
- Connect with administrators and campus community

## Challenges

- Cultural aspect/concept of “advisory board” and providing feedback
- Continue to raise awareness of ISAB among students, staff, and faculty members
- Time: internal meeting time and conversations, meeting university departments, and meeting student organizations

# ISAB Structure (2019 – 2020)

ISAB will be expanding to have 15 members in 2019 – 2020, including 10 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students.

## **General Members Commitments:**

- Regular meetings (weekly/biweekly)
- Fall & Spring retreats
- NCBI Training
- Any additional meetings for projects that they are working on

## **Leadership Team:**

- Co-Chairs (1 undergrad chair & 1 grad chair)
- Secretary (UG)
- Communication Director
- Get To Know Us Director

# ISAB Member Responsibilities (2019 – 2020)

In order to provide feedback to university departments and units, increasing cultural competency to facilitate conversations and to advocate for international students, ISAB members are expected to...

## **Attend meetings, retreats, and trainings:**

- Grad: biweekly meeting (1.5 hr)
- Undergrad: weekly ISAB meeting (1 hr)
- All: monthly board meeting (1.5 hr)
- Fall & spring retreats (7 hrs each)
- NCBI training (1 full-day training – 7 hr)
- Additional meetings to meet with stakeholders and project groups depends on the tasks/project groups

## **Communicate regularly and in a timely manner for:**

- Email communication
- Representation/presentation request
- Feedback request



# ISAB

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# Thank you!

**Contact information:**

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