

International Student Advisory Board (ISAB) 2020-21 October Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 7:00pm-9:00 pm, via WebEx Members attended: 10/11

Agenda

1. Ice Breaker (15 mins)
2. Meeting engagement discussion (10 mins)
3. ISAB statement update (5 mins)
4. Small groups updates (15 mins)
5. Meeting review (15 mins)
6. ISAB social justice conversation (55 mins)
7. Define the next meeting's agenda (5 mins)

Icebreaker (15 minutes)

Q: Online Makes Things Different! - Dingyi

- We are getting used to studying, communicating, and working online gradually. Have you noticed a change in any experiences?
 - Share an experience you find online that makes you feel strange, funny, happy, etc.
 - Example: the cat stepped on the professor's iPad
 - Ambar: Cats showed up on a screen. After one and a half semester, adapted to new challenges and be in the same room most of the time.
 - Rung: Professor was recording a video; she can see their kids came in front of the screen.
 - Kinzang: Discussion every week.
 - Sean: Meeting with a board member but one of them did not dress appropriately.
 - Ruisu: Drop-in during an office hour more frequently because everything went online.
 - Dong: Live in a big housing, so she asked her housemaid to be quiet when she has a meeting. They are super nice and support her.
 - Sam: Feel like in the meeting 10 hours a day.
 - Pream: Fun to see colleagues with their pets at home.
- *Sean left at 8:34 p.m. and Ruisu left at 7:31 p.m.*

Meeting Engagement Discussion

- A. Is everyone participating in the discussion? If not, how can we promote that?
- B. Do I feel comfortable sharing my opinion? If not, what is preventing me to do so?
- C. What other tools could we use to make meeting more dynamic?
 - Pream: Communicate through Teams is easy and quick.
 - Dong: Use Teams to share Files, and Documents
 - Ambar: Teams is good for sharing documents but not sure if it works best for other purposes. Can we have a Team building or have more dynamic conversation because we have a lot of silent when we have open questions and sometimes, we feel shy to talk first.
 - Sam: Curious for ISAB or a smaller group, how is everyone interacts with each other. Listen to everyone's idea and respect communication. Do we have a community standard to prompt the agenda?
 - Dingyi: Because of different time zone, he always created a document with project's partners. During the daytime, they work on the project and he continues the projects afterward.
 - Rung: Teams is useful. She can leave a comment and her team can check later. She lost ability to talk after midnight, but the meeting time now is much better because it is in the morning where she lives.
 - Dong: She will look at community standards we have, and we can share at the beginning of the ISAB next meeting. We will share an agenda a week ahead of time.
 - Kinzang: If someone wants to contribute and share opinion, it would be a great idea.

ISAB Statement Update

- We have worked on topics relevant to issues in spring & summer. Planning on including new topics concerning on current situations in the future.
- Sam: is there any feedback on this? Did you have a share value from the group or a smaller group.
- Dingyi: Can we leave a message later? The outcome of the election matters base on who is elected and any progress we made in the statement.
- Dong: Planning to add more content after the election. When is the final job due so we can review and provide any feedback on this?
- Rung: What will change on this statement after the election.

Small Group Updates

Group 1: Cultural Engagement

- N/A

Group 2: ISS Engagement

- Sean: Many international students do not know what ISS does. ISAB members could have more events by ourselves. Take turn to make account more active. Newsletter is quite long, maybe it will appear more if we have shorter version.
- Rung: International students do not know what events or services the ISS has. Maybe an introduction about ISS on the Instagram. We should make more materials to work on.
- Sam: what is the next step for engagement? What engagement looks like for Spring semester? What would be most helpful for our international students?
- Dong: ISAB Instagram take over. ISAB social hour and maybe separate as a session. PEACE/Global Café/Friday event, it would be great to have ISAB members participate and provide a feedback. ISAB members can create a video about ISS updates.

Group 3: Campus Departments survey

- Ambar: No updates yet but we can talk about the one we have in summer. We can use the data that already existed from an undergrad and graduate survey. We can analyze and provide any feedback to ISS.
- Dingyi: Using the data science class to analyze data professionally so we can host/create an event.
- Anuj Modi: Agree with Ambar. Can ISS make themselves more popular? There are more opportunities to make an engagement, the Badger Bridge or Mentorship program. To connect incoming international students with their mentor (junior/senior). We can team up with student organizations, free coffee, or food on Thursday. To analyze to see what students are looking for and what they are not getting right now.
- Sam: How it works? An undergraduate and a graduate department just sent the survey out. Any survey that ISAB plans to send out, it might be worth to have a meeting with Ning Sun. Sam can connect her with Ambar. Campus wide survey.
- Dong: After getting a data from the survey, what the next step looks like? Protect the confidential of student?

ISAB Social Justice Conversation

- Dong facilitated the discussion based on the pre-work.
- Everyone read the Ground Rules.

Closing Question:

- What is one thing you are taking away from this conversation?

Take time thinking about responses to the following questions.

1. What does social justice mean to me?
2. When someone brings up social justice in classes or in my personal life, what emotions or feelings come up?
3. How do I learn about social justice?
4. What does social justice look like in ISS and at UW-Madison?
5. What does social justice mean in my home community or country?
6. Where have you seen social injustices show up during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

A few definitions:

- **Equity:** the quality of being fair and impartial
- **Equality:** the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities
- **Inclusivity:** the practice or policy of including people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized
- **Inclusive language:** language that aims towards inclusivity and challenging the concept of norms. Essentially, taking harmful language from our vocabulary (i.e. foregoing language that is sexist, ableist, heteronormative, or culturally appropriated)

This is Social Justice:

We believe social justice is both a process and a goal. The goal of social justice is full and equal participation of all groups in a global society that is mutually shaped to meet their needs. Social justice includes a vision of society in which the distribution of resources is equitable, and all members are physically and psychologically safe and secure. We envision a society in which individuals are both self-determining (able to develop their full capacities) and interdependent (capable of interacting democratically with others). Social justice involves social actors who have a sense of their own agency as well as a sense of social responsibility toward one another, our society, and the in which we live. These are conditions we wish not only for our own society but also for every society in our interdependent global community.” (Bell, 2013).

*please note, different people define social justice differently, but ISS has adopted the definition of social justice from Lee Anne Bell. We strive towards social justice in many ways, including creating more student-friendly policies and practices within our control.

Define the next meeting's agenda

- **Ice breaker (10 minutes):** Volunteer-Anuj Modi
- **Small groups updates (45 minutes):** Each group will present the progress of their specific projects. Lead by Ambar
- **Meeting review (10 minutes):** Summary of the meeting. Each member will share with the group what the main take away was for them.
- **ISAB Social Justice conversation (30 minutes):**
- **Focus Group discussion (30 minutes)**
- **Define the next meeting's agenda**