Graduate Chairs Meeting Summary
June 18, 2020

Updates

Graduate Chairs meetings for the rest of the summer are scheduled for:

- July 2,
- July 16,
- July 30, and
- August 13.

Diane Cahill and Jen Nisevich from International Student and Faculty Services (ISFS) offered updates and answered questions.

- **Diane Cahill updated the group on work being done by the International Student Task Force. This task force is made up of international students who are concerned with the current situation. Highlights of the task force's work include:**
    - The task force surveyed international students and found:
        - For the summer, many international students planned to work in on-campus positions, however, due to COVID-19, these positions have disappeared.
        - As a result, these international students are faced with many expenses without a means to pay these expenses.
        - These international students are facing food insecurities as well as difficulty paying rent and utilities.
    - According to the food pantry staff, 90% of students using the food pantry are international students.
    - Because of the work of the task force, the Athens Mayor asked a member of the task force to sit on the Mayor's advisory council.
    - The task force has met with many about their survey findings including the Provost.
    - The Athens County Foundation awarded a $10,000 grant to assist with this dilemma.
    - For those you are interested in supporting international students affected by COVID-19, please click here.
    - The criteria for this fund have not been finalized yet, but the community will be informed when this has been finalized.

- **Questions & Answers**
    - Will international students have to be **quarantined** when they arrive?
        - We do not know. We will need to ask the reopening group.
        - If this were to happen, ISFS may need to offer additional support services for international students living off-campus.
    - When will we hear about the university's official action for fall?
        - This is unknown. Some materials were requested by June 15th. A team was to review these materials and then update the community. Something will be out soon.
    - What about late arrivals?
        - Students may not make the arrival date.

        - The government allowed flexible spring guidance, but it is not yet clear about guidance for fall.
        - Starting a couple weeks late would be allowed. You must communicate with ISFS about this.
        - If a whole cohort starts late, ISFS should be able to support that.
        - Remember these students will still need to find housing and settle in, so please be patient and offer a little more support. They need additional support beyond academic support.
        - For late arrivals, graduate appointments will be pro-rated. If they start on week four, pay would be pro-rated for the actual start date.
            - Currently, HR is still needing an in-person I-9 completion.
            - These documents cannot be completed until these students are on campus.
        - Currently, ISFS is advising students to get in touch with ISFS once they have a confirmed interview date and then contact ISFS when their visa is approved.
    - Can a student start remotely for fall and then start on-campus for spring?
        - Yes, but remember students cannot hold a graduate appointment if they are taking classes remotely.
    - What is happening with International Student Orientation (ISO)?
        - ISFS is planning for a virtual orientation.
        - The peer advising team is helping to create content for different types of students. For those who are here, overseas, and deferring.
        - Those sessions that are required will be virtual.
        - Social events will be paired down.
        - ISFS is working with Robert Payne in HR/Payroll about paperwork.
        - ISFS is setting up a network with peer advisors, so the students can ask questions as they arise.
    - If you have additional questions, please email isfs@ohio.edu.

- **Links shared during meeting**
    - Fundraiser link to assist international students affected by COVID-19
      https://bobcatsgive.ohio.edu/?cfpage=project&project_id=36062
    - ISFS Pre-arrival communication
      https://www.ohio.edu/isfs/pre-arrival-student-communication
    - Graduate Student Orientation
      https://www.ohio.edu/graduate/newly-admitted-students/ohiogso