**** MINUTES

**International Student Advisory Committee (ISAC)**

January 17, 2018

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Telus Center 215E Boardroom

**Attendees:**

* Gavin Palmer (International Student Engagement Programs Coordinator)
* Meijun Chen (International Student Services Program Assistant)
* Crystal Snyder (Undergraduate Research Initiative Undergraduate Research Coordinator)
* Manson Tian (Undergraduate Research Initiative Volunteer)
* 22 student members represented more than 16 countries

**Meeting Minutes:**

1. **Advisory Committee Crossover Members Updates**
   1. ACCESS meeting updated by Upama KC:

- Working on two projects: 1. Syllabus project 2. “Speak Series” planning for Winter Term

-Interested in presenting at ISAC meeting

* 1. SLAC meeting updated by Prasanth Valsan Katholil:
* Discussion had made about suggestion on the improvement of eclass website pages
  1. GSA information from Elisabeth Richardson:
* Council Meeting is coming up
* FGSR and GSA have joint events that welcome students to participate
  1. CCR from Can Aydogan
* Working on new hours for the fitness programs, creating timeline for students to check

1. **Discussion Items: URI**
   * 1. **How many student members heard about URI?**

Two.

* + 1. **Are funding from URI opens to international students?**

Student members asked about if there are specific scholarship or funding opened to international students and the answer is yes, and it opens to both full time and part time students. Members had a discussion around if the research project needs to be an existing one or new idea, and students should apply as an individual with an individual project or as a group with a group project. URI could help find contacts from the specific fields for student researchers. Funding open to students in any year.

* + 1. **What kind of difficulties do you think the international students face when they do the research?**

Member discussed about language barriers, lack of confidence, and the topics that are more ‘local’ so the new students’ might be hard to relate to immediately, some research projects are only opened to Canadian citizens.

* + 1. **Discussion about the URI outreach to students and professors**

Members mentioned if more professors and students know about URI, it would be helpful.

* + 1. **What strategies you suggest us to use to increase the awareness of international students?**

Members suggested mixer, success stories shared by upper year students or alumni to students by emails or other social media, workshops could help gather students together, posters, advertise inside the department area or the departments that more students need to do research.

* + 1. **What kind of international student groups or student groups, for example, ISAC, that you think we can reach out and promote URI?**

Members suggested lab groups, reach out to professors, Teaching Assistants, Departmental student associations, promotional items in ISS Welcome Tote Bag for new incoming international students.

1. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: February 28th, 2018

Time: 5:00-7:00pm

Location: Telus Center 215E Boardroom