

**International Education Meeting  
11/14/2024 Minutes**

**I. Meeting Called to order at 12:03 PM**

**II. Roll Call**

- 1) Donna Woodford-Gormley, Chair
- 2) Dolores Ortega
- 3) Jacob Avery
- 4) Emmanuel Nkwenti, Secretary
- 5) Dr. Kimberly Blea, VP

**III Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked that the agenda be reviewed. Dolores made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Jacob. The motion carried.

**IV 10/17/2024 Minutes**

Approval of the minutes was tabled since only two of the member who had been at the 10/17 meeting were present.

**V Report from the Chair**

- Caroline Montoya will be unable to come to the IEC meeting apparently because she was not previously informed of the meeting. However, she reports that there are currently 89 international students on campus.
  - Per Benito, Tina will be off for a while
  - We are still short by one member (an at large member) and the Senate is still working to fill the vacancy.
  - Dr. Blea is here and will help shed some light on international students concerns regarding housing and food.
- Finally, the chair posed a question as to whether the IEC needs to hold another listening session with international students as we did last semester. The IEC will take up this question at the next meeting.

**VI Report from VP Dr. Blea**

- Regarding meal plan modifications, these can be done for medical reasons. Not so clear for financial reasons as international students did represent that they were financially viable before coming to the University.
- Jamaican and African students have been asking for modifications for cultural reasons. This is not yet done although these concerns are being looked into. As previously mentioned, financial constraints are not enough reasons for modification considerations.
- The Chair asked whether any food allergy concerns were being addressed. Dr. Blea answered that Cedex, the Food Service Contractor, addresses these types of concerns and that exceptions were granted with proper documentation.

- Dr. Blea indicated that her office is in the process of trying to write a grant to provide a Kitchen for international students so that they can use as long as they clean up after themselves. This is still in progress.
- Apartment/Dorms for international students are going away. Greg and Arod house houses are too old and there are no maintenance funds for these. There are current plans to demolish Arod, Greg and Archuleta houses. The State will provide funds from a special fund for demolition.
- There is a plan for new Apartment style housing which might help but these will be more expensive because of the need to recover the money needed to pay for the bond that will be taken out to build these new buildings.
- Dr. Blea indicated that the issue of new apartments and dorms will be some years off in the future, not any time soon.
- Student transportation –it is being offered this semester, and mostly international students are using it (About 90%)!
- The University is offering end of semester transportation to all students to the airport
- Free Phones – A partnership with T-Mobile offered 20 phones. All the phones were quickly grabbed by international students. More of these are planned through the CARES office.
- There was a suggestion by Dolores that a central location could be identified to assist international students to call their families in their home countries.
- The Chair also suggested that there should be a “ONE-STOP Resource” for students including international students. It could be a website. Dr. Blea stated that they will work on updating an existing site. Furthermore, Dr. Blea indicated that they were in the process of renovating the Student Union Building to create a Food pantry on the second floor. This will hopefully be in use next year.
- Regarding a Clothing Drive, Dr. Blea stated that the School of Education is presently spearheading that effort.

## **VII NEW Business**

- Meeting Dates for next Semester
  - . Suggestion by Emmanuel to keep the meeting days to Thursdays at Noon. The First meeting is scheduled to be on February 6<sup>th</sup>

At 1:04 PM, Emmanuel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dolores. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned.