

**International Education Committee**  
**Listening Session 03/27/2025**  
**Minutes**

**I. Session Called to order at 12:01 PM**

**II. Roll Call**

- 1) Donna Woodford-Gormley, Chair
- 2) Jacob Avery
- 3) Taik Kim
- 4) Emmanuel Nkwenti, Secretary
- 5) Kemar Green
- 6) Caroline Montoya, ex officio member
- 7) Also in attendance were President Woolf, VP for Student Affairs, Kimberly Blea, Associate VP of SEM Benito Pacheco, 20 students and faculty live in SUB 322 and 15 Students on Zoom

**II Introductions made by Chair – Dr. Woodford-Gormley**

IEC Members introduced themselves - Taik, Jacob and Emmanuel.

**III Listening Session/Concerns**

First up, was Kemar Green who shared a Survey Report that he had conducted. There was a limitation because only 14 students participated in the 5 questions that were asked.

- The questions dealt with academic support, cultural barriers and overall treatment of international students, including discrimination. The specific questions can be obtained from Kemar Green
- Overall, 71% of the international student respondents were satisfied with the university and the services that they were getting.
- It appears that international students with concerns would rarely go to HU Cares or the Administration with those concerns
- Student No. 2 chimed in to say that they were here to share information and not necessarily to chastise Ms. Caroline. A suggestion was made that if relevant information was obtained even from other sister institutions, it could be shared for the benefit of all.
- Student # 3, Obianuju Achazie congratulated Ms. Caroline Montoya for her hard work with limited resources. Her concern was that there was never any follow up for meetings or concerns raised. For instance, there was an issue regarding a hold on her account which would not let her register for classes. In the past, Tina would lift those holds on student accounts so that international students could register for classes. Who now is responsible for lifting those holds?
- Mr. Kemar Green raised the issue of Face to Face classes needed by international students for undergraduates and the lack of availability of those classes.
- The Chair suggested creating a sort of Reference/Check List for Faculty to help them understand the unique requirements for international students.
- Kemar Green brought the issue of lack of representation on the various committees. Having international students on the various committees may bring their unique issues to be understood by the University.

- Regarding a question on Room/Board and meals, Dr. Blea addressed those concerns and talked about the limitations that we were all facing. She talked about two exceptions to the meal plan – financial and medical reasons. For both, documentation is needed. She said that if students need more food options, they must ask for this because the Food Company – Sodexo will not know. Sodexo, is a country wide food services company servicing many universities and can accommodate requests within reason
- Dr. Blea said that they were in the process of looking for funds to build a Community Kitchen to service students on Campus.
- Another student brought a suggestion to split the meal plan money into two which can allow international students a little flexibility to purchase and cook some foods that may not be available to the Food Services company with their discretionary food money.
- Another student suggested that the Meal plan should be optional.

At 1:05PM, the discussion was continuing. So, the Chair formally closed the listening session which allowed attendees to attend to other obligations. Other issues raised after this time, have not been included herein.