Immigration and International Issues Committee  
(Faculty Policies & Procedures 6.61.)  
Annual Report, 2018-2019

I. Statement of Committee Functions

The Immigration and International Issues Committee in the University:

1. Provides general advice and recommendations to the administration and all governance bodies on immigration and international student, faculty, and staff issues.
2. Considers how immigration policy impacts UW-Madison students, faculty, and staff and then provides guidance to campus leadership, especially offices working with immigration issues.
3. Considers how international policies impact UW-Madison students, faculty, and staff and then provides guidance to campus leadership, especially offices working with international issues.

The committee’s “Operating Procedures” (18 September 2018) are available upon request from the Office of the Secretary of the Faculty.

Professor Alfonso Morales (DPLA) Chaired the committee and Assistant Professor Jerome Camal (Anthropology) co-chaired the committee in 2018-2019.

Committee members for 2018-19 included:

Faculty
JEROME CAMAL, Co-chair, L&S/ANTHROPOLOGY  
ALEXANDRA HUNEEUS, LAW/; L&S/CTR LAW SOCIETY & JUSTICE  
ALFONSO MORALES, Chair, L&S/PLANNING & LANDSCAPE ARCH

Academic Staff
KRISTIN DALBY, Secretary, L&S/ENGLISH  
WEIJIA LI, EDUC/ELPA; L&S/GERMAN NORDIC & SLAVIC

University Staff
KORY BREUER, VCRGE/WID  
KIM BESTA, CALS/BACTERIOLOGY

Students
TATIANA SHIRASAKI  
JANELLE PEREZ MARTINEZ  
ANA GRECIA

Ex Officio
JASON JONELY, Designee (VP/Dean of the International Div)
II. Activities
The committee is new and in its first year engaged in fact finding and discovery. Due to the broad nature of our charge, we devoted the first year of our mandate to educating the committee and sharing knowledge about the many different issues having to do with international or immigrant status that impact our faculty, staff, students, and our research mission. Thus, we spent time bringing in different actors from around campus specially charged with immigration and international status matters, as well as sharing our own expertise with each other. We learned the broad nature of our charge and how international and immigration issues (III) are among those impacted by national and international political-economy. For instance, in the two years after September 11, 2001, federal regulations regarding the F and J visas were substantially revised and the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) came on-line. Out of these geopolitical concerns, International Student Services (ISS) and International Faculty and Staff Services (IFSS) experienced increased workloads and significant changes in their business processes. The federal government also levied the I-901 fee on these visa holders to support SEVIS, while campus needed to allocate additional funds to support international services. This exemplifies the complex nature of III that the campus faces.

The committee hears concerns about III generally, as they are associated with different schools, colleges, institutes, and divisions as well as different demographic groups. For instance, engineering and laboratory science disciplines share a particular concern with securing visas for interested applicants.

The committee learned of the activities of the previously constituted *ad hoc* Advisory Council on Immigration and International Student Issues and set forth to establish a broad understanding of III across campus. We learned of the deep and diverse mental health concerns among international students and students without visas as well as their extraordinary interest in attending the UW despite difficulties in achieving their aspirations. We learned of the persistent inability to compete with peer institutions for students, faculty, postdocs, and staff. We also distinguished between legal and administrative understandings of III situations.

In this regard III committee members face a steep learning curve when it comes to understanding the different immigration categories and the various processes international students, faculty, and staff must engage. The committee was particularly thankful to members Jason Jonely and Katie Tollefson who briefed members on distinct aspects of immigration and acted as “institutional memory” on these matters.

Ongoing Parallel Processes
The committee acknowledges the related work being conducted by two committees, a Chancellor constituted *ad hoc* committee on visas and the AVP Working Group on Faculty of Color. The III
committee discussed how the nature of such overlaps varies by the definition of “Faculty of Color” and the approach that the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Educational Achievement takes to immigration and international issues. Additionally, and of more salience, the committee learned of the Chancellor’s interest in visas and anticipates learning more from the Chancellor’s ad hoc committee on visas that will be constituted in the Summer of 2019.

Research Findings

Committee members brought substantial experience with III concerns from many parts of campus and in these peer-peer discussions among members we came to a better understanding of the scope and scale of the III charge. We also solicited presentations by ex officio and other members of the UW. We collected resources from campus and community and researched other institutions’ efforts in the area of III.

Highlights of data collected:

• Gerry Pelanek, Internal Consultant from the Office of Strategic Consulting, reported on on-going work on the visa support processes that visa holders (students, visiting scholars, faculty and staff) go through. The goal is to benchmark our services with peer institutions in order to identify service gaps. The Office of Strategic Consulting has been involved in two phases of a project related to providing support to those who come to UW-Madison from abroad (as students, faculty, staff, interns, and visiting scholars). Initially, they provided a report on the current state of affairs on campus (which offices serve which constituencies, etc.) as well as a benchmarking study of Big Ten peers. They were then asked to facilitate a work group tasked with making recommendations on appropriate organizational structure for international services office(s) to better serve the campus.


• Dr. Theresa Duello (SMPH) presented to the committee on her efforts at equalizing tuition expenses for DACA students. Her professional interest follows from her work directing the UW’s participation in the Consortium on the Inclusion and Care of the Underrepresented in Clinical Research, a nine-institution consortium which addresses culturally responsive curricula, community outreach tools and strategies for addressing health disparities in clinical research, and recruitment/retention strategies for the underrepresented populations in clinical research.
  o We were reminded that data on DACA employees / students is not collected.

• International students pay extra fees/charges.
  o International Student Fee: F and J visa holders whose Visa Permit Issuing Authority is listed as “University of Wisconsin-Madison” in SIS are charged $100 per semester of enrollment, including Summer. The International Student Fee is the sole source of funding for ISS personnel, services, programs, and events. Exchange students are exempt from the fee due to articulation agreements; exchange offices do not supplement the cost of the fee to ISS. International services offices at UW System institutions may not be financial supported through the collection of segregated fees per current Board of Regents policy.
Tuition Differential: All non-resident students pay higher tuition rates, which “will fund critical new faculty and staff positions, as well as provide funds for high quality programs and experiences for students,” (Blank’s Slate, https://chancellor.wisc.edu/blog/our-tuition-proposals-to-the-board-of-regents/). While all students with an F-1 or J-1 visa pay non-resident tuition, those at the undergraduate and special level pay an additional $500 per Fall and Spring term, and $250 for Summer term.

At times, there has been confusion on campus that the university charges (or wanted to charge) a SEVIS fee. While F-1 and J-1 visa holders do pay the I-901 fee directly to the US federal government to support SEVIS, there is no SEVIS fee charged by campus.

- Char Horsfall (staff in Chemistry) explained difficulties in hiring top post-doctoral job candidates following from not being able to employ individuals on the OPT-Stem extension (for F-1 visa holders). Students, faculty, and staff of various visa statuses face many and distinct concerns with joining and participating in campus life.

It is in this diverse context that the committee took up its charge.

III. Recommendations
As a result of III discussions we make the following recommendation:

We recommend that the University pursues recognition from USCIS as an “American Institution of Research” to enable any naturalization applicants to work and conduct research outside the United States for extended periods of time, (unanimous April 18, 2019).

IV. Agenda for 2019-20

The committee anticipates selecting, researching, and making recommendations on III concerns in the 2019-20 academic year.

The committee will seek a presentation from the Office of Strategic Consulting) for a follow up on the visa support process and on the Chancellor’s ad hoc committee on visas.

In conclusion, the committee Chair and Co-Chair commend Jason Jonely and Katie Tollefson for their efforts educating the committee and Kristin Dalby in her service as committee admin.