February meeting minutes

Discussion of AEIS Report Finalization
AJ asked about the meaning of institutional patience, and John replied that AEIS courses targeted to specific majors needed to last at least couple of years for the students to finish the program and encouraging new students to take them. These courses (AEIS in business) were once taken place, but did not work because they lasted only for one year. Therefore it will require institutional patience while enough students get through the program to recommend and encourage their peers to participate through word of mouth. Ging asked about whether AEIS courses could be non-business majors related. Abe stated that it could not be every major, but popular ones. Abe also mentioned that AEIS classes should be reviewed. Jessie brought up the question of the specific line between popular majors. It was also discussed in the meeting that the regular AEIS classes should be reviewed to ensure a minimal amount of overlap with AEI levels 4-6. Also, the AEIS classes with specific majors should first table with top 3-5 schools.
Motion forwarded by AJ. Seconded by ADAM. Vote 5-0, passes.

Building Campus Relationships
Ethan’s Introduction
Adam led the discussion by mentioning when folks link in: “Why do you want to know?” Most people join groups through word of mouth or friends. It is difficult to maintain groups through relationships. Often times, most people become shy and guarded. This statement was supported by campus survey that was only 30% responded. There is least participation possible to be scientific. Even by $10 incentive written in English and Chinese. Individuals chose not to take the survey. Institution is asking because they have a motive. Adam said it is better to ask through student groups because they are trusted. Jessie mentioned the difficulty to know whom to trust at first. Attendance rates are low, and we should not designate groups or events as domestic vs. international. Jessie stated that just following “Student Focus” invisible hand or forces make this worse, and it doesn’t feel diverse. Adam said there is an institutional block you can get past language barriers, but there are people working here who don’t know how to talk with international students (made to feel awkward). Therefore, new international students who encounter this situation just prefer to stay in their safe zone. AJ said there are lots of resources, but students don’t know about them. For example, the Conflict Resolution Center, but no one knows about it. Jessie follow up stated that it should be more visible, but invisible. The question of the purpose of the international student fee was brought up. Adam said students don’t know what to ask for. AJ mentioned we don’t have the full information. We tried to get bounded between departments, but ended with no answers. Adam said this is easier to navigate for international students. California is totally different. Even after having lived in CA for long time, Adam couldn’t order coffee in OR. When Adam asked for a coffee in a coffee shop, the serving staff could not understand Adam, possibly because of the accent.
Cultural competency in Oregon is lacking in general. Jessie answered students have misunderstandings, and we should combine orientations. Adam and AJ agreed. Jessie suggested that before taking UO classes, they should have more information (pre-orientation): International Introduction? Abe said international students can go to week of welcome but choose not to. AEI students are in classes, but don’t know when they will matriculate to the UO. It is unfair to expect international students to arrive for a summer orientation program, and no students want to pay for the extra plane ticket. UO movement is to start referring to week of welcome as “late orientation”. It is standard to have separate international orientation, and it is interesting to see how many students truly need this. Most of them have never left their home before. Adam mentioned that CSSA does welcome, airport pickups. Rely on ISA or ISGs for Friendship Foundation? Then CSSA rely on OIA for their things. Ethan needs to physically go to ISG meetings. In business such as a retail environment—you have to know them before you can talk to them. It is important to build relationships because it is hard for ISGs to offer suggestions, collaborate with or without it. Build stronger communication channels. It is also important to educate staff to be more comfortable talking with international students. Jessie said there are lots of invisible resources. The difficulty is in combining international and domestic students. She suggested that there should be an event or atmosphere for all students to get together, showing what “real”(not just academic) UO looks like. Adam suggested a forum: face to face talking about life at UO—with classes, jobs, etc. Jessie agreed, then she said it should happen right before classes start, and it would be too late after term begins. Abe stated it is difficult to combine orientations, but there are some schools that do it. Adam said student life should be involved because of “less academic”, co-curriculum, resources that could be more visible. Abe asked whether ASUO offer leadership development or not. AJ replied not at all. Jessie also answered no. Abe said student groups are doing work that is overlapping with us. Who should do what? Abe also brought out the question of equity: what about students who don’t have a strong support group to represent them? AJ said there is a disconnection between students, ASUO and ISGs. There is no structure for succession plan and support.

For next meeting, Jessie said that we should talk about the responsibility for old leadership because most of the old leaders just leave, and don’t support new leadership. Ethan talked about the advantages of pre-arrival online ISO, and how it frees up time and resources. We need safe group of ISO to start with and need to change all campus with ISO. Fear that if I come to ISGs that I come with agenda. Need to know that I am here to help, not to tell them what to do. For today’s meeting, Ethan prepared no agenda, just wanted to be a resource, and want to listen.

Departmental Communication
Postponed: AJ mentioned there are lots of difficult issues, and it will require significant organization. Jessie said families are needed to be educated as well. Adam agreed.
Sexual Assault and Victim Support & Website discussion and Photoshoot

Adam asked if there is any problem with these sections. Jessie said educating people is important. Adam said resources should be available on the website, snapshot of data, and some basic vocabularies should be defined. Jessie is willing to do outreach, however, the concern is that individuals are hard to engage on this issue. Jessie mentioned some folks are passive to this issue and what we need is interactive responses.