

AGENDA

Diversity and Internationalization Committee Meeting

Angela Pashia, Committee Chair

Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, 2pm, Ingram Library Conference Room

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance

III. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

IV. Update to the International Transfer section of the Undergraduate Admissions policy (see below)

V. Information item: John Morris, chair of the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Committee, will send a doodle to schedule a joint meeting to discuss student evals

VI. Liaison reports

1. President's Commission on Campus Inclusion

1. Implicit bias training update: Faculty, staff, and students can request the training to be delivered starting in Spring 2019 via the CDI website

2. Office of Education Abroad Advisory Council

3. Center for Diversity and Inclusion

4. International Student Admissions and Programs

VII. Other business?

VIII. Adjourn

Update the International Transfer section of the Undergraduate Admissions policy Info from Paul Sargent

At present, we require evaluations for all students who have studied from a foreign country. This includes secondary school, undergraduate transfer students, and graduate students. This does increase the cost of application to UWG by about \$100-\$200/student, depending on the number of documents needed evaluated, and if the original document is in English or requires an additional translation cost. This places us at a bit of a disadvantage at UWG, as it is becoming uncommon for universities to require a 3rd party evaluation. For example, UGA, USG, and Georgia Tech have all removed the evaluation requirement for freshmen students:

<https://admissions.gsu.edu/bachelors-degree/apply/international-students/>

<https://www.admissions.uga.edu/prospective-students/international/first-year-international>

<https://admission.gatech.edu/node/40>

The USG also does not require a 3rd party evaluation, and does permit USG schools to perform an internal evaluation (much like the Registrar currently does for domestic schools):

https://www.usg.edu/international_education/international_students/general_admission_requirements

As such, the removal of the evaluation requirement would remove a major hurdle international students face while applying to UWG, and reduce the cost and time investment needed to obtain an admission decision from us.

To this end, our office has been expanding our competencies in this arena to prepare for this request. Over the past two years, both Brandy Rivera and myself have obtained certification by NAFSA: Association of International Educators (the professional organization that oversees international education initiatives in the USA) on the following courses:

- International Credential Evaluations: Basics
- International Credential Evaluations: Secondary-level
- International Credential Evaluations: Post-secondary level

This is the same training that many of the NACES-approved evaluators send their junior staff members to, when they join the field, judging from the number of individuals I met at these trainings from such organizations.

In addition to the certifications, we have also gained Affiliate Status with the Association of International Credential Evaluators, a professional organization that establishes guidelines for credential evaluation, and serves as a great resource in cases in which a transcript is either of a system with which our staff is not familiar, or in cases where fraud is suspected.

And, of course, with the updated policy, it is our intention to also allow UWG to reserve the right to request an evaluation from students in cases where the office does not feel

comfortable certifying an equivalency for the student (e.g. if a student would submit to us a transcript from what we would equate to a nationally-accredited program, as opposed to a state-approved 'regional accreditation' equivalent).

While it would be ideal if we could obtain permission from the Senate to waive the requirement in total (with a possible exception of graduate Education programs that require a 3rd party evaluation for the state license), we can also change this policy in phases. Such as, allowing for a waiver for undergraduate students, while maintaining the requirement for graduate applications.

Ideally, we would like to see this change of policy made before the end of the current calendar year, as this would certainly be a change that would assist us with our Fall 2019 recruitment cycle. As the majority of our applications come in the months of December-February, this policy update would most likely have a significant impact on our application completion rate, and overall admission yield. Finally, a major benefit that this would serve is the ability for individual colleges/chairs to be able to set program-specific standards that we would be able to enforce, as well as standardization of our admission requirements. For example, a student from India with a 3-year B. Com degree either may be able to join our MBA program, or not, depending on which NACES-approved service they choose to handle their evaluation. An example of this would be that if the student chose WES, their evaluation would be deemed equal to a US 4-year degree, and can complete their application; while a student using Josef Silny would be given 90 credits of transferable coursework as an undergraduate transfer applicant. However, by bringing the evaluations in-house, individual colleges can choose to either approve/reject 3-year degree equivalency, allowing for greater control from the faculty, and a more consistent policy for applicants overall.