ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
AND
STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE
Year: 2004

Area or Unit Name: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

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Section 1. Goals and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Access and Diversity: Recruit, retain, and graduate a larger more academically prepared, and more diverse international student body.
- Surpassed for the first time the threshold of 100 countries of origin for nonimmigrant students enrolled in the University.
- Received redesignation of the Texas Tech J-1 Exchange Visitor Program.

Goal 2: Academic Excellence: Attain international recognition as a top public educational research university.
- Obtained a 100% approval rate from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for employment-based immigration applications.

Goal 3: Engagement: Provide programs and services that disseminate knowledge and skills and that enhance the quality of life at the university, local community, region, state and nation.
- Facilitated the nonresident income tax preparation program.
- Presented 7 on-campus immigration sessions.
- Presented 6 on-campus diversity sessions.
- Maintained the Lubbock International Friends Together (LIFT) program to encourage international students and members of the Lubbock community to engage in meaningful cross-cultural relationships.
- Presented 7 professional development workshops.

Goal 4: Technology: Maximize the use of technology in the delivery of services.
- Created a moderated forum to facilitate exchange among international students.
- Maintained an electronic database system to interact with the national SEVIS immigration system.
- Maintained a webpage to provide routine immigration information.
- Maintained an international scholar listserve to provide essential immigration information.
- Created 5 databases to facilitate processing of immigration applications and records.

Goal 5: Partnerships: Build strategic partnerships and alliances with external entities.
- Maintained the DSO Group for regular contact with University offices concerned with student immigration.
- Maintained communications with the Office of Tax Compliance and Reporting for sharing data and information concerning nonresident tax issues.
- Maintained connections with Information Technology for facilitation of immigration data sharing across the campus.

Goal 6: Human Resources and Infrastructure: Maintain a quality work force and work environment.
- Obtained approval for a full-time SEVIS Data Compliance Specialist to assist with technical issues related to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.
- Maintained support of professional development for staff.
**Goal 7:** Tradition and Pride: Develop a national image based on Tech traditions and pride in achievements.

- Provided introduction to Texas Tech in the New International Student Orientation program.
Section 2. Universal Quantitative Data

There are no Universal Quantitative Data for this area/unit.
## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

### Area/Unit Specific Information

#### Section 3a. Quantitative Information

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<table>
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Section 3b. Qualitative Information.

- Unit personnel attended 9 professional training sessions.
- Jim Nesmith, International Faculty Counselor, continued service in the NAFSA Trainer Corps.
- Bob Crosier, Director, continued service in the NAFSA Trainer Corps.
- Jim Nesmith, International Faculty Counselor, continued service as the Regional Representative on the NAFSA Council on Immigration Policy and Practice.
- Bob Crosier, Director, was selected to be the North Texas Representative for the NAFSA Regional Team.
Section 4. Strategic Planning Update.

There is no strategic plan update for the current year.

Commentary:
The year 2004 for International Student and Scholar Services was dominated by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, SEVIS, and other federal government programs impacting international students and scholars, and by the general chaotic state of immigration organization and processing in the United States. SEVIS, the national tracking system of foreign students and scholars, and related systems are in operation but remain under development requiring frequent updates and adjustments. Texas Tech experienced its first decline in more than ten years in the number of nonimmigrant students and scholars at the University. This decline reflects a general decline in the willingness of foreign students and scholars to come to the United States. The unit, the University and U.S. higher education are faced with rethinking how free exchange of persons and ideas can be fostered in a nation dominated by fear and security concerns.

Implementation Plan:
The work of ISSS will continue to be driven by emerging policies and requirements of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, and other government agencies. Professional training of staff members will remain the key element in fulfilling the mission of the unit. Budgetary limitations leave few resources to apply to services and programs beyond those that are federally mandated. New sources of funding must be studied and developed especially for scholar services and student programming.