ISAB Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2015
4:30-5:30 p.m., Student Org Room 104 International Center

Attendees: Krittika Onsanit, Sugandh Gupta, Campbell Munro, Sara Rikalo, Andrew McAnallen
Guests: Shira Smillie, Adela Chacon, Mia Hagerty

Agenda Items
● Ring Dance Representative (Mia Hagerty)
● Meet with WCSGA representatives (Adela Chacon and Shira Smillie)
● Ideas for central VA colleges and universities mixer

Upcoming Meetings & Events
○ Next ISAB Meeting? Monday, Nov. 9, 6:00 pm in the Student Organization Room
○ ISAB Mixer with William & Mary, Friday, Nov. 20, 2-6 pm
○ I-Month Events - please promote!

Opening and Parade (Nov 2, Mon 6-7:30 pm) Forum to OIE Commons
Gather with friends for an international flag parade, sushi, samosas and dumplings, and cultural performances! Celebrate diversity at the International Centre on Nov 2nd!

Student Discussion Panel (Nov 5, Thurs 5-7 pm) THC 346
Can the same group of people be migrants or refugees? Come for a discussion on social justice, immigration and refugee issues! Pizza is served.

Spider Night (Nov 14, Sat 9-midnight) Alice Haynes Room
Join Spider Nights, International Club and the South Asian Student Alliance for a night featuring Indian food, Dandiya traditional dancing, and the opportunity to meet lots of people!

Closing and Fashion Show (Nov 20, Fri 7-9 pm) International Commons
Close the Month of cultural celebration strong! Come to the International Commons to treat yourselves with multiple performances, fashion show, and food from all around the world!

Ring Dance Representative (Mia Hagerty)
Mia wants to inform international students about Ring Dance as the WCGA junior class president in charge of planning it. She explained the history of the dance and recent changes to attire and escorts for the junior class women. The dance will be held on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016 at the Jefferson Hotel and Mia encouraged exchange students to attend to participate in a UR tradition. Campbell said last year a lot of exchange students weren’t aware they could attend as guests, and only knew they could attend when they asked OIE to check into it. There will be an email with an online form to purchase tickets, and WC has funding for students who cannot afford the full-ticket price. Krittika asked if transportation will be provided to the Jefferson from campus as many internationals do not have cars. Mia said she would look into it and send any information emails about the dance to Krittika or Diana.

Meet with WCSGA representatives (Adela Chacon and Shira Smillie)
WCSGA would like to work more closely with the international student population as the Senate strives to become more diverse and transparent. There is a misperception that Senators come mostly from the Greek system. Most of the campaigning with posters and door-to-door canvassing is done at the beginning of the semester in first year residence halls and academic buildings. As an international student, Adela was not aware of the opportunity to run for Senate in her 1st year because of the information and adjustment overload. She recommended that Senators make presentations during international orientation. Sugandh asked if being an international student minority candidate was a setback but Adela said it was a strength for her because anyone interested in international issues and diversity voted for her, not just international students. Andrew asked if there were joint meetings between
the WC and RC Senates and Adela and Shira said that the 2 SGA Presidents and the 2 bodies communicate and meet regularly. The SGAs have town hall meetings where anyone can come, and WCSSGA has open meetings where anyone can attend. As an international, Adela will encourage other international women to run and mentor them. Krittika asked if the SGAs sponsor any orientation week events as OIE is interested in partnering with a student organization on an orientation week social event to foster integration with domestic students, and could make funding available for it. Adela and Shira said that they table at SpiderFest and have a color war activity, but no events during orientation.

Board members thought that having informal talks in the mandatory residence hall meetings would be better than tabling because it is awkward for new internationals to approach someone they don’t know at a table.

**Ideas for central VA colleges and universities mixer**

Krittika said that there was low attendance by UR international students at the international student mixer on Monday, Oct. 19th, and asked the Board if they attended, and if not, why not? Board members said that Monday is not a good day for a social event and that Thursdays or Fridays are better. Also, the B-School had exams that week so a lot of people were busy with work. Sugandh had attended a mixer in the past, and suggested having an icebreaker at the beginning to make students meet students other than the ones they came with to the event. The Board thought the idea was a good one to have internationals from other campuses at UR, but students have to get something out of the interaction. They were open to the idea of including domestic students.