ISAB Monthly Board Meeting
Friday, October 21st, 2016
5 – 6 p.m., Student Org Room 104 International Center

Attendees: Krittika Onsanit, Javier Cifuentes, Sabrina Escobar Miranda,
Katerina Gkagkou, Shuchang Yang, Cheryl Wen

Guests: Alexandra Abreu, Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Education &
Prevention Intern

Alexandra Abreu is a Title IX/Sexual Misconduct Education & Prevention Intern. She would like to get international student input on an FAQ the office is developing on sexual misconduct misconceptions, concerns and questions. Board members were asked to talk to their international student peers before the meeting to see what they would most like to know about this issue and what they are most concerned about.

Board members suggested talking about rights of the accused as well as those of the victim, and explaining the process and sanctions. Addressing sexual misconduct during orientation is a good time as new international students are eager to learn about topics with which they are unfamiliar. It is also important to address cultural norms and differences as internationals come from many cultures and may not be familiar with expectations.

ISAB Monthly Board Meeting
Friday, November 11th, 2016
4 – 5 p.m., Student Org Room 104 International Center

Attendees: Krittika Onsanit, Javier Cifuentes, Sabrina Escobar Miranda,
Katerina Gkagkou, Shuchang Yang, Cheryl Wen

Board members discussed international student reaction to the US election. Many internationals were not surprised at the results as they had seen Brexit and the rise of populism in their own countries. Many students are not as affected as their American peers because they know they will be in the U.S. only for a few years. An exception to this are Muslim students, who are worried about the negative rhetoric, but don’t fear for their personal safety at UR. Internationals see their friends who are African-American and Trump supporters as being marginalized. Board members felt that the email the Office of International Education sent to all international students the day after the election encouraging students to talk to the Office and others on campus about any concerns was sufficient, and that there was no additional need to create a safe space just for internationals as it might worry students unnecessarily. In countries where internationals come from, people for the most part don’t expect as much as Americans
do from their government leaders and are used to personal achievement through individual effort, not government assistance.

ISAB Monthly Board Meeting
Friday, January 27, 2017
4 – 5 p.m., Student Org Room 104 International Center

Attendees: Krittika Onsanit, Javier Cifuentes, Sabrina Escobar Miranda

We discussed concerns about the Executive Order travel ban on international students. Board members again echoed the sentiment that many internationals are not as affected as their U.S. peers because they are here temporarily. Updates concerning the legislative impact on immigration and student and work visa benefits would be useful. Muslim students continued to be concerned about the current administration.