Projects 2011-2012
Academic Performance & Integration Committee

International Student Advisory Board
Road Map

- Concerns identified by last year’s survey
- Possible explanations behind the identified issues
- Potential solutions to address these issues
Concerns Identified by the Survey

• Time Management
• Academic Stress Management
• Exam taking and preparation
• Class participation
• Academic writing/research/presentation
Possible reasons and explanation for identified issues

• Attitude towards workshops and information Sessions conducted by WLRC, CAPS, Van Pelt and other organizations on campus

• Inundation of information during ISO and NSO- Repetition of Visa Instructions overshadows emphasis on campus resources
Possible reasons and explanation for identified issues (contd.)

• Apprehension of engaging actively in class discussions (class participation) - Language/Accent barrier?

• Distraction from academics due to Pressures related to securing housing and managing finances (interconnected)
Possible reasons and explanation for identified issues (contd.)

• Adjusting to differences in teaching styles (more pronounced for graduate students)
• Tendency to stick to one’s own ethnic group
Solutions and goals for 2011-2012

• Better streamlining of information provided during the first few weeks of school (in advance)

• Taking steps to see that TAs are more receptive to and knowledgeable of the concerns faced by international students (raising awareness and seek for support from faculties)
Solutions and goals for 2011-2012 (contd.)

- Addressing academic writing issues by adopting programs similar to the GSE’s Writing Coach Service in other schools (discipline-based)
- Expanding the capacity of the workshops and scheduling such sessions during the course of the semester when it may be most required
- Listing specific examples of problems faced by international students and possible solutions in the International Student Handbook
Feedback from large group

• International TAs and faculty have different styles that can impact academic success
• Very difficult to schedule an appointment with the Writing Center (from a graduate international student) – separate appointment slots for international students? Sensitivity to international students
• College houses provide writing skill support to internationals via GAs or Tas