

Global Student Council

Pre-Launch Convention

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Page 2

Introduction

Dear friends,

Greetings from the executive board of the Global Student Council (GSC) organization! First of all, we would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year and all the success and happiness in the future. As of the Pre-Launch Convention last semester, we have been recently approved by Student Council as an official Contracted Independent Organization (CIO).

A Short Introduction

The GSC aims to forge relationships and create a common platform for all the current international students at The University of Virginia, in order to identify and resolve the main issues that impact the international community, and strengthen their relationship with the University; as well as to facilitate current international student relationships and support the University in building a strong international alumni network.

In this issue

Page 2 Global Student Council
Pre-Launch Convention

Pages 2-3 GSC Initiatives

Page 4 Have you been sitting
under a rock? Don't
miss out on what the
University community
thinks of us...

Page 5 So What's Next...

“ Being an international student at UVA, I have always wanted a medium through which multi-cultural students can meet and come together to govern themselves. Almost a democracy for the people by the people and of the people.” – Miloni Shah

Global Student Council Pre-Launch Convention, 11/12/2008

The GSC Pre-Launch Convention was successfully held last fall. We invited administrators who may be involved as well as various student leaders at UVA to introduce and raise awareness of our organization.



This is so as to seek for advice from the faculty, administrators, and student leaders, to increase membership, and most importantly, to reach out to as many members of the university community as possible to hear their views before officially launching the organization.

In response to the pre-launch convention, Prashanth Parameswaran, a student journalist for the CavDaily wrote an article called *A world of opportunity: The Global Student Council faces significant obstacles to representing internationals*.

(extract on page 4)

<http://www.cavalierdaily.com/news/2008/nov/20/a-world-of-opportunity/>



Left: Miloni Shah (Co-President of GSC)
Center: Ansuya Harjani (Co-President of GSC)
Right: Batkhoo Dashnyam (Chief Operating Officer)

"I am especially delighted to be founding Global Student Council with a group of outstanding individuals who deeply care about the well being of their university. It is our sincere desire to assist UVA in climbing up the educational ladder and be more internationally recognized. With our talented, high caliber members on board as well as the enthusiastic feedback received from the University administration, we are highly confident that we will be able to fulfill some of our goals this year. We are all firm believers in approaching our business affairs in a progressive manner." – Batkhoo Dashnyam

Global Student Council Initiatives

The mission of UVA Global Publicity is to improve UVA's reputation overseas, and its goal is to make every single international student in UVA an ambassador for UVA overseas. – Karissa Nanetta

UVA Global Publicity - International High School Visits (HSV)

This project, in affiliation with the Office of Admission, aims to increase UVA's reputation outside the US for both international prospective students and international employers, thus increasing employability for all those interested in returning to their home countries.

The first task for project leader Karissa Nanetta was to gather a group of students who were voluntarily willing to visit their high school or any other high schools in their area and give a presentation about life at UVA. The success of HSV rested in the hands of the Wahoos.

Over winter break, there were student volunteers who visited four schools in China, one school in Kuwait, and three schools in France. To our delight, HSV received very successful and positive feedback from students and counselors of the school. In addition, the volunteers also had an enjoyable time visiting high school and sharing their love for UVA.

Our next task is to increase participation and try visit even more countries this summer holiday, as it is a crucial time period in the university application process. So, we will need all the help you can give! To take part in this exciting project, please contact Karissa Nanetta at kn7d@virginia.edu

International Parents Outreach (IPO)

International Parents Outreach (IPO) is a project in the internal committee of Global Student Council that strives to provide parents of international students in UVA a comprehensive understanding about the University. In this project, student volunteers cooperate with professors from Language Departments to translate information of the school into various foreign languages, so that international parents will be able to read in their native languages.

Currently, we are working closely with Office of Orientation and New Student Program to translate *Handbook for Parents* into various foreign languages. In the future, our scope of translation will extend even larger to provide as much information to our international parents as possible. Besides that, IPO is also taking the initiative to build up an international parent database.

Through IPO, we hope by making school information available to international parents, they can be empowered to make well-informed suggestions to guide and assist international students through their transition in both academic and personal life.

Indeed, IPO is a project created by students to serve peer students. Join us if you share the same idea, and contact Weiqi Tian at wt5b@virginia.edu

Have you been sitting under a rock? Don't miss out on what the University community thinks of us...

[Student-led admissions program sees success during winter recess](#)

Anne Rasmussen, Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

1/20/2009

A new admissions program, through which international students talk to prospective students at their local high schools abroad about the University, will be expanded following its success during the recent ...

[Two student-organized initiatives seek to promote University abroad](#)

Prateek Vasireddy, Cavalier Daily Senior Writer

11/17/2008

In an effort to improve the University's name recognition outside the United States, two student-run initiatives are planning a variety of projects to better inform international students, parents and employers ...

[A World of Opportunity](#)

Prashanth Parameswaran, Opinion Columnist

11/20/2008

The Global Student Council faces significant obstacles to representing internationals...

A world of opportunity

The Global Student Council faces significant obstacles to representing internationals

...International students have long needed a single body to address their wealth of grievances. They receive paltry incoming credit because they pursue non-AP programs like the International Baccalaureate. They face linguistic and cultural barriers in a new environment that most Americans do not. And the immigration hiccups they encounter make simple applications to jobs, internships and health insurance so time-consuming they ought to receive credit hours for them.

Creating a monolithic group also streamlines cooperation with a bureaucratic administration. Rather than deal with episodic huffs and puffs over international student financial aid or curriculum internationalization, the University will now have a sustained and unified partner that is representative of all its international students. As Senior Assistant Dean of Admissions Parke Muth put it, "having an organization is good because international student interests are part of a concrete group rather than just a reciprocation of interests on a periodical basis."...

(An extract from Prashanth Parameswaran's article on GSC)

So What is Next???

1. Preparation for a student activity fair at the beginning of spring semester
2. Build our blog (<http://gscnews.blogspot.com>) and wikipage (<http://globalsc.pbwiki.com>)
3. Work with the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) to help international students integrate into the local community
4. Funding: We are trying to get funding from Ms. Laura Casteen's office (i.e. VPSA Student Program Funding)
5. We will also start working closely with Ms. Cindy Fredrick from the Office of Engagement and Mr. Wayne Cozart from the Alumni Office. We will assist in the design of a database containing the contact information of all international alumni for the past several years
6. GSC will hope to have its inaugural mini UN meeting sometime this semester.

Finally...

- Do you have any useful information that you would like to share with us?
- Do you have any questions or concerns that you would like to bring to our attention?

We would like to hear from you!

Make sure to spread the news about GSC to your friends!

Our e-mail listserve is gsc-all@virginia.edu Don't forget to subscribe to our listserve if you would like to be a member or take a more active role within GSC!