ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT  
AND  
STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE  
Year: 2005

Area or Unit Name: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

Area or Unit Leader: Robert T. Crosier  
Email: bob.crosier@ttu.edu

Phone Number: (806) 742 - 3667  
Ext: 247

Mail Stop: 5004

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.

- Welcomed 320 new international students to the University.
- Maintained a registration control system to minimize the loss student immigration status.

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 8 on-campus immigration sessions.
- Presented 2 professional development workshops.

Goal 4: Technology: Maximize the use of technology in the delivery of services.

- 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.
- Initiated development of an electronic immigration record system to replace paper files.
- Initiated development of a computer-based case management system for employment-based immigration programs.
- Provided a monthly international student newsletter e-mail program to furnish current information.

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 issues.
- Maintained communications with the Office of Tax Compliance and Reporting for sharing data and information concerning nonresident tax issues.
- Established partnership with Student Health Services and other offices to facilitate the University's manditory international student health insurance program.
- 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.

- 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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Section 3b. Qualitative Information.

- Unit personnel attended 10 professional training sessions.
- Unit personnel attended 34 webinars and teleconferences.
- Jim Nesmith, International Faculty Counselor, continued service in the NAFSA: Association of International Educator Trainer Corps.
- Jim Nesmith, International Faculty Counselor, continued service as Regional Representative on the NAFSA Council on Immigration Policy Practice (CIPP).
- Bob Crosier, Director ISSS, continued service in the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Trainer Corps.
- Bob Crosier, Director ISSS, continued service as 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 2005 for International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) was dominated by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, SEVIS, PERM and other United States government programs impacting international students and scholars, and by the generally chaotic state of immigration organization and processing. SEVIS, the national tracking system of students and scholars, has been in operation since 2003, but remains an electronic system under development requiring frequent changes and updates. The Department of Labor introduced use of a new internet-based labor certification application process (PERM) creating greater interest in this labor-intensive approach to permanent resident status in the United States. These and other developments in international education create the fluid environment within which the unit must operate. ISSS, the University, and U.S. higher education in general continue to be challenged to reinvent effective approaches to free exchange of persons and ideas in international education exchange in a nation dominated by security concerns.

Implementation Plan:
The work of ISSS will continue to be driven by emerging policies and regulations of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, and other government agencies. Frequent change in these systems for both student and employment based programs will continue to be the rule. The impact of these emergent changes is unpredictable. Professional training of staff members during this period of change will be the primary element in fulfilling the mission of the unit. Continuing development and modification of electronic systems will also be essential in dealing with developments in federal mandates in international education. 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 orientation.