

A Report on International Student Life

From the University Council Committees on International Programs and on Student Affairs

Part A. Preface

A recent heightened concern for the well-being of international students at Penn led each of these two committees to begin a review of the current conditions and environmental factors which affect international students. A perception had grown that some of the difficulties faced by these students were not well addressed on campus. Since both committees had common goals and objectives in these matters, they decided to collaborate in both a joint effort and final report.

Much of the work of the International Programs and Student Affairs Committees in 1988-89 stemmed from the resolution by GAPSA of February 17, 1988, "...that the President appoint a special committee to examine the circumstances and conditions of international students." The University Council, on March 23, 1988, "...concluded that the proposed study would be well within the charge of the International Programs Committee and saw no need to appoint a special committee as recommended."

The Steering Committee asked the International Programs Committee on October 27, 1988 to "...take up as much as it can of the study and return a report before the end of the spring term, 1989." A Standing Subcommittee of the Student Affairs Committee, in conjunction with its continuing monitoring of student services at Penn, voluntarily joined the effort. The activities of the subcommittee include monitoring the effectiveness of some of these services in meeting the needs of international students.

At the outset, each committee was concerned with different objectives. However, it soon became apparent that both studies needed to first assess the concerns of the international students. Therefore, a small subcommittee was formed of members from both committees to carry out this evaluation.

This was done in two phases. First, the committee met with representatives of five of the largest nationality clubs:

- Association of Chinese Students (P.R.C.)
- Chinese GAPSA (Taiwan)
- Korean Graduate Student Association
- Muslim Student Association
- Pakistan Student Association

These nationalities groups represent a substantial fraction of the international students at Penn. (Please see Appendix A, pp. VI-VIII, for statistics on international students at the University). All of the nationality clubs and all members of the university community were invited to an Open Forum on the concerns of international students on January 24, 1989. About 40 people attended the two-hour meeting which was co-sponsored by the two committees, GAPSA, and the Office of International Programs.

As a result of their cooperation, the two committees decided to present a joint report on their findings. The summary report of international student responses is given in Part B below. Part C contains the specific findings of the Student Affairs Standing Subcommittee, which monitored the effectiveness of selected services in meeting the needs of international students at Penn. Part D addresses the concerns raised in the GAPSA resolution. Part E summarizes the recommendations of the two committees.

Part B. Self-Identified Concerns of International Students

Below is a summary of the comments of various international students to representatives of the International Programs Committee and the Student Affairs Standing Subcommittee. The following sections group these comments into seven categories.

B.1. Financial Aid Issues

These are principal and very important concerns of many international students who come to Penn with financial aid here. Most of these students are solely dependent on these funds. Both the continuing evaluation of student academic progress and adequate advanced notice of impending loss of support are often insufficient. Many such students whose support is to be discontinued would like to investigate alternative temporary and longer-term arrangements. These and several other particular aspects are discussed below.

The principal matter is the termination of financial support. Late notification causes many difficulties which departments and faculty members should be cognizant of. The students suggest that they be notified, before initial matriculation, of an appreciable likelihood that their financial aid award from Penn may not last beyond the first year. They also request the earliest possible notification of adverse financial aid decisions, based either on performance or on inadequate funds. There was the suggestion that the Office of International Programs and/or the Deans play a role in informing both faculty and administrators about any special financial aid uncertainties concerning international students. It was noted that short notice of the loss of support makes it difficult to pursue other opportunities and often causes visa problems.

Students who encounter such financial difficulties have few sources of temporary help. They do not qualify for American loan programs. The Office of International Programs has a small loan fund of \$8,000. This allows students to borrow up to \$500 for three months without interest. These resources are too small to cover the combined needs, under present procedures.

Concerning stipends, the first month of the first year is the most costly, due to academic fees, security deposits and other costs of becoming established. Students requested that, wherever possible, stipends be spread unevenly, to cover typical initial costs.

B.2. Pre-Arrival Information

The international students would have appreciated more information than they received prior to their arrival at Penn. Specifically, they asked for more guidance on safety issues, health insurance, and off-campus living. They indicated that many nationality groups are willing to welcome students from their countries. The leader of the Muslim Students Association suggested that his organization would be more effective in such preparations if the club had access to the names of new Muslim students or if the Office of International Programs coordinated a mailing from his organization to these students.

Many students commented that they would have appreciated specific directions from airports, train stations, and bus stations to the Penn campus in advance of their arrival. Since problems frequently arise

upon arrival to the U.S., students requested an emergency telephone number to call in case of trouble.

B.3. Housing

Locating inexpensive housing in safe environments is the most critical problem for international students arriving at Penn. Since the cost of University housing is not competitive with the rents charged by landlords in the surrounding area, a large fraction of the international students chose accommodations off campus. Students are concerned that the least expensive housing options are not always the safest. They suggest that the University provide new students with information about safe locales near Penn. Similarly, they also need more information about leases, their rights as renters, and low-cost housing options that do not require three-month security deposits. Many international students come to the University with spouses or families. The University does not provide adequate information about housing options for families.

As more international students choose to live off-campus, the issue of initial temporary housing becomes more pressing. Few students can arrange for off-campus housing in advance of their arrival. Therefore, they have no place to live temporarily, when they first appear at Penn. The few reasonably-priced hotels and guest houses in the area fill quickly in August, leaving many students without affordable alternatives. The Task Force of the Vice President for University Life is now exploring temporary housing alternatives for students at the start of school and during the several periods when residential living is closed.

B.4. Security

Security is a recurrent theme with these students. They requested that more information should be provided earlier in their association with Penn, about the problems of living on an urban campus. They asked that pre-arrival literature, as well as orientation programs, stress security issues. Many first learned about the escort service and the Penn bus late in the academic programs and requested that information about these services be given upon arrival.

B.5. Health Care

Many students do not have an accurate perception about either health care or about health insurance at Penn. Also, students can use Student Health but their spouses and families cannot. Students asked that a list of medical referrals be made available for their families, through Student Health. They were uncertain if either Student Health or the University's health insurance policy covered them during vacations or during the summer. There was much uncertainty about health care arrangements at Penn and the extent of the coverage.

Health insurance is an especially obscure matter for many international students. Many international students arrive at Penn with little understanding of the concept of health insurance. In summary, they need to know things like the following:

- Why do they need insurance?
- Is there a choice between policies?
- What do the different policies cover and how important are various options?
- How may families be covered at reasonable cost?

B.6. Advocacy

Several students at the Open Forum suggested that Penn should provide an advocate for international students similar to the advocates for other special interests groups. There is a need to know where to turn when there is no other recourse. Referrals to offices are not always followed up to make sure the referrals were successful. An advocate would provide help in finding resolutions of important problems.

Leaders of the nationality groups noted that their members occasionally need legal representation or advocacy and many did not know where to acquire it.

B.7. Space

According to the leader of the Muslim Students Association, the nationality groups need some office space of reasonable quality and reliable space for regular meetings. They now must reserve meeting space from month to month with no guarantee of the same location. The groups request that these needs also be provided for in the new student center, and that the Office of International Programs petition for this on their behalf.

Part C. Report of the Standing Subcommittee of the Student Affairs Committee

The Standing Subcommittee examined a number of University services whose work pertained to concerns raised by international students as summarized above. Part C reviews these concerns as explored in conversations between the Subcommittee and the student services listed below:

Prearrival & General Information Housing	Office of International Programs Office of Off-Campus Living Residential Living
Student Health Insurance Space	Student Health Service Office of Student Life Physical Plant

The issues of financial aid and advocacy are addressed in Part E of this report, and a Task Force in the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life is considering the issue of safety as it concerns international students.

Following a discussion of each issue is a brief list of recommendations from the Standing Subcommittee.

C.1. Pre-Arrival and General Information

At the Open Forum, the first topic that international students addressed was the need for more information about Penn prior to arrival. Students specifically requested additional material concerning safety, health insurance, and off-campus living.

The Office of International Programs (OIP) sends two informational documents to foreign students at the time of their admission. These are OIP's Welcome Booklet and the Entry Document Application Form. The Welcome Booklet is a 12-page 4" by 9" pamphlet in tiny type that touches on everything from Safety and Money to Climate and Clothing (See Appendix B.*) It covers a remarkable number of topics in a limited space and deals with all of the items mentioned by students above. OIP has planned to extend its discussion of safety in the booklet for the coming year. Ann Kuhlman, the Associate Director of OIP, notes that safety is an institutional problem. As such, it is being addressed by the Safety Task Force from the Office of the Vice Provost of University Life.

Although the information on health insurance in the Welcome Booklet is useful, it may be somewhat confusing to new students. On page 10 of the booklet, health insurance is mentioned as an expense often overlooked by international students, and its cost is listed as about \$500 per year for single students. On the following page, insurance is estimated more accurately at \$560. Given that international students frequently underestimate the cost of education in the United States, it is important that cost estimates are liberal and consistent.

The information on housing in OIP's Welcome Booklet is brief but thorough. It discusses on- and off-campus housing alternatives, family housing, leases, and then refers students to the Office of Off-Campus Living for further information about leases and contracts. The booklet provides students with a range of rents for various types of apartments. While the range is useful, the low estimates may give students an unrealistic idea of the cost of living in Philadelphia. Similarly, the booklet states that landlords require security deposits equivalent to one or two months of rent. It does not note that several major landlords in West Philadelphia require a deposit equivalent to three months of rent.

Beginning in the summer of 1989, OIP will ease students' introduction to Penn and especially to the Office of Off-Campus Living (OOC) by initiating a special orientation program with ten new positions for student workers (see Appendix C for job descriptions). The OOC and OIP are working together to help international students locate temporary and ongoing housing, as discussed further under Housing below.

Several leaders of nationality clubs requested that OIP facilitate communication between the clubs and newly accepted students prior to their arrival. Since OIP cannot legally provide the nationality clubs with names of incoming students, they have agreed to mail the incoming students a list of the clubs and individuals to contact at Penn. This mailing will be sent to newly admitted students with their I-20 forms.

* Appendices B, C, D and E are available for examination at the Office of the Secretary, 121 College Hall.

A number of students noted that they had difficulties upon arrival in the United States. They requested an emergency number to call in case of problems. Instead of an emergency number, Ann Kuhlman suggested that after working hours, the OIP tape could refer students to a campus number where students could get an immediate response, perhaps from a student or a member of campus police. If such a referral is made by tape, it is important that the individual who receives the call is thoroughly briefed on the kinds of emergencies that entering foreign students experience and that the home number of a member of OIP is available in case of a complicated problem. An emergency number or referral system should be operative for approximately three weeks prior to the start of classes.

Students also requested directions from major airports, bus stations, and train stations to the campus. Although many of the directions they requested are available in OIP's Welcome Booklet, they are easy to overlook. OIP could reinforce this information in a subsequent mailing.

Currently, OIP has a loan fund of \$8,000 which will support up to 16 students at the maximum loan of \$500 each. Most fiscal emergencies that international students experience require over \$500. Students have requested that a larger emergency loan fund be made available. Many are unaware of the existence of the emergency loans that OIP has.

The Standing Subcommittee recognizes that OIP has already begun to act on the recommendations of students who attended the Open Forum, and has implemented changes in the structure of orientation for the coming fall. In addition to these measures, the Subcommittee recommends:

1. that OIP design and implement a system for dealing with emergency telephone calls from international students who arrive in the United States during the three weeks prior to fall classes (to be in place for fall 1990).
2. that OIP make liberal estimates of the costs international students will incur at Penn.
3. that OIP reinforce in a subsequent mailing the information they provide newly accepted students regarding travel to campus by bus, train, and cab.
4. that the mailing budget of OIP be increased so that additional information may be sent to international students about safety issues and so that typeface is larger and easier to read.
5. that OIP publicize the existence of its emergency loan fund for international students, and that OIP work to locate and/or develop alternative sources of emergency funding.
6. that the OIP work with the individual schools to establish an international friendship program which pairs members of the University community with incoming international students (to be implemented by fall 1990).

C.2. Housing

On 23 February 1989, the Standing Subcommittee met separately with Carolynne Martin, Director of the Office of Off-Campus Living (OOCL) and Brigitte Blanco, Assistant Director of Staff/Programs for North Campus in Residential Living.

The OOCL is familiar with the housing needs of international students, many of whom arrive at the office with suitcases in hand each September. Much of the information requested by international students at the Open Forum already exists at the Office. Material on leases and the rights of renters is readily available to those who inquire. Beginning in the summer of 1989, the Office of International Programs will collaborate with the OOCL to incorporate housing assistance into a new orientation program. As part of the program, a student worker will be hired to introduce international students to the OOCL. The informational literature will be revised for clarity where necessary with the international reader in mind.

International students were especially concerned about low-cost and family housing options. Carolynne Martin has located several realtors who will work with her office to provide for these special needs. Since it is difficult to locate inexpensive housing for families within five blocks of the campus, Carolynne Martin suggests that families look to the west of 44th Street for such accommodations.

There is little that the OOCL can do to dissuade landlords from charging a three-month security deposit. Fortunately, only a small percentage of the landlords near Penn require such a deposit. Carolynne Martin suggests that international students identify themselves as such

to landlords charging three-month deposits, since some of them are willing to make special accommodations for foreign students.

The issue of temporary housing for new students lacking housing arrangements is a thorny one. Students in need of emergency short-term housing should consult the OOCL, which has identified several inexpensive, short-term options in the area. A Safety Task Force operating out of the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life is also addressing this issue in depth, exploring temporary housing arrangements on and off campus.

At the Open Forum, students expressed only one major concern with Residential Living. They felt the rents on campus were not competitive with the rents of comparable apartments off campus. As Brigitte Blanco pointed out, however, rents at Residential Living include utilities, furnishings, proximity to campus (with a related decrease in transportation costs), and security. The leases are for nine months and are somewhat more flexible than those of off-campus landlords. Finally, senior residents located in the buildings provide guidance and counseling to other residents.

Brigitte Blanco feels that many international students expect on-campus housing to be relatively inexpensive because, in most international universities, housing is subsidized by the government. Residential Living, in contrast, is a non-profit, unsubsidized division of the University which operates at a loss. It should be noted that, despite relatively high rents, the apartments at Graduate Towers are filled to 98% of their capacity.

Many of the identified housing issues of concern to international students are already being addressed by Residential Living and the OOCL. The subcommittee recommends:

1. that, in addition, the special emergency resources of the OOCL be communicated to the individuals who handle student services within the various departments and schools.
2. that the international friendship hosts, recommended above, be given adequate information to guide international students and their families to use the resources available at Penn to locate affordable housing.

C.3. Health Care

The Standing Subcommittee focussed its attention on issues concerning health insurance for international students. The Student Health Advisory Board is currently meeting to address concerns about the Student Health Service, and the subcommittee has referred international issues relevant to the Student Health Service to this board.

On 16 March 1989, the Standing Subcommittee met with Audrey Insogna, the Insurance Administrator for Student Health. At her suggestion, a representative of the subcommittee had a telephone conversation with Jim Fine, a Foreign Student Advisor at the International Programs Office, who has worked with Audrey extensively to meet the insurance needs of international students at Penn. Both James Fine and Audrey Insogna agreed with students that the cost of insurance at Penn is high, especially if students are insuring families as well as themselves. Part of the reason for the expense is the high cost of medical care at the Hospital of the University. Insurance carriers are unwilling to provide insurance at low rates if hospital costs are likely to be high.

Jim Fine compares different insurance plans each year and spends a considerable amount of time counseling international students on their insurance options. This year, he is recommending that students buy the University insurance plan as it provides the greatest coverage for the least cost. He does not consider the plan to be ideal, however. He is concerned that students need to pay 20% of any medical costs incurred outside of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In case of a serious medical problem, this arrangement could devastate a student financially.

Both Audrey Insogna and Jim Fine are concerned that a number of international students are uninsured at the University. Students are required to purchase insurance upon matriculation at the University. Many will buy short-term policies of private insurance carriers and will neglect to renew them when they lapse. As many as 30% of Penn's international students may be uninsured. Audrey Insogna notes that universities like Columbia require insurance coverage of students before they can register each term. She suggests that Penn consider a similar arrangement.

A number of international students have complained that informa-

tion about Penn's insurance plan is not clear. They are unsure of the extent of their coverage and the arrangements for co-pay at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Several returning students noted that they did not have insurance cards, and were concerned about emergency care if they were injured outside Philadelphia without proof of insurance.

Both Student Health and the Office of International Programs (OIP) have sponsored informational sessions on health insurance. Nonetheless, both offices agree that more information would be useful and appreciated by international students. At present, most discussions of with the students' arrival at Penn, a time consumed by concerns about housing, finances, and registration. Audrey Insogna has suggested that insurance programs be offered several weeks into the academic year, when students have more time to review them. International students suggest that open sessions on insurance would be useful to returning as well as new students, especially since the University insurance plan often varies substantially from year to year.

A number of international students were concerned that their spouses and children could not use the Student Health Service. Student Health is currently examining the feasibility of including spouses in the service. At present, both Student Health and the OIP maintain lists of medical referrals which spouses may consult as needed.

The Standing Subcommittee recommends:

1. *that the OIP and Student Health increase their efforts to educate the international student community about health insurance and to schedule some of their programs at times that do not coincide with the peak of new student orientation.*
2. *that the Office of the Vice Provost for University Life examine and collaborate with OIP to recommend a solution to the problem of uninsured international students whose health insurance policies have lapsed.*
3. *that the Office of International Programs and Student Health Service work together to clarify explanatory information about the current health insurance policy.*

C.4. Space

Because international students complained about difficulties in scheduling space for meetings and offices, the Standing Subcommittee spoke with two offices in charge of space allocation to student groups. On 16 February 1989, the subcommittee met with Fran Walker and Nancy Wright from the Office of Student Life (OSL) and Flonnia Freeman from Physical Plant.

According to Nancy Wright, Facilities Coordinator for Houston Hall and Irvine Auditorium, all student groups are permitted to reserve meeting space in Houston Hall on a monthly basis on the 15th of the previous month. She sends out a letter to various student groups early each semester to remind them of this policy and to invite them to schedule events and programs for the following semester (see Appendix D*).

When alerted to the fact that members of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) were concerned about space assignments they had received, Nancy Wright and Fran Walker noted that the MSA receives over 40 hours of room space per week in Houston Hall. Infrequently, these room assignments have had to be changed to accommodate other groups; this has concerned members of the MSA. The club seems to object to the requirement for monthly reservations of space. This policy, says Nancy Wright, applies to all student associations and cannot be waived for one group.

Other nationality clubs have occasionally reserved space in Houston Hall, but some do not seem to be aware of the fact that room schedules are drawn up on the 15th of every month. For this reason, they often lose space to fraternities and sororities who are more prompt in reserving rooms. The OSL has announced its room reservation policy in the Office of International Programs newsletter, but few students have responded. This may be due to the fact that a number of the nationality clubs work out of International House and not Houston Hall.

Any student group is entitled to apply for office space. The Houston Hall Advisory Board collects all applications for office space in the spring, and allocates space shortly thereafter. The only nationality club to use office space in Irvine Auditorium is the MSA. All space, including the office of the MSA, is cramped and unattractive, and all offices are shared between two or more organizations.

The leaders of the nationality clubs we met were unaware of space options outside of Houston Hall. In fact, Flonnia Freeman, the Facilities/Conference Coordinator of Physical Plant, keeps an up-to-date inventory of all campus facilities (see Appendix E*). The list includes building code and room number, capacity, special features, rent (if any), and the person to contact for room reservations. Flonnia Freeman works through the Registrar's Office to keep the list timely. She says that classes take priority in scheduling, but free space is available on most evenings and weekends. Although she places an advertisement about room availability in the Daily Pennsylvanian each semester, much of the space remains unused after classroom hours.

Although the OSL and Physical Plant have publicized their policies on space allocation in the Daily Pennsylvanian and the Office of International Programs newsletter, most of the international students we met had no knowledge of them. The subcommittee recommends the following:

1. *that, in addition to their advertisements, the OSL and Physical Plant work with OIP to communicate their policies concerning room reservations to international students.*
2. *that the OSL work with GAPSA to prepare a revised version of the Student Activities Council Handbook to be given to the leaders of nationality groups.*

Part D. The Response of the International Programs Committee to the Steering Committee, Concerning the GAPSA Resolution of February 17, 1988

The preface, Part A of this report, sets out the charges to this Committee. They relate to the proposal made in the GAPSA resolution that "...the president appoint a special committee to examine the circumstances and conditions of international students..." The University Council concluded that the proposed study would be well within the charge of the International Programs Committee and that this committee take up this study and report by the end of the Spring term, 1989.

The International Programs Committee and a Standing Committee of the Student Affairs Committee heard responses concerning needs from representatives of a substantial fraction of the international students at Penn. The results were summarized in Part B. The results of the studies of services, by the Standing Committee, were given in Part C.

The conclusions reached by the International Programs Committee, to the charges from the Steering Committee, are:

1. *The two committees which were involved in these studies are the proper ones to examine the circumstances and conditions of international students.*
2. *The study also indicated that these students do encounter systematic difficulties which may be ameliorated with increasing efforts within the functions of present structures at Penn.*

Therefore, this committee finds that a new committee is not necessary. It would duplicate the functions of the existing committees. The specific recommendations for improvement, following from our studies, are given in Part E, along with those of the Standing Committee of Student Affairs.

Part E. Conclusions and Recommendations

This report represents a coordinated effort by two University Council standing committees which investigated concerns of the international student population of Penn. Imperative to remember is that these efforts were initial steps for the University to understand the unique problems faced by students from abroad. What is presented here is based on voluntarily reported concerns and may not present the full picture. Indeed, concerns of some international groups may not be represented if no one from these groups came forward. It will be important that further investigation into these matters and follow-up on those recommendations be made.

The continuing efforts on these issues should be two-tiered. At one level, the various student services must be continually monitored for efforts to assist our international student population. Monitoring of these services is a function of a standing subcommittee of the Student Affairs Committee, and thus a fitting site for this charge. The second level concerns deans and departments. The International Programs

Committee might be the ideal committee to investigate the levels of understanding of international student problems by deans and department chairs, and to monitor efforts for change.

The Standing Subcommittee to Monitor Student Services made the following recommendations:

1. In regard to the Office of International Programs:
 - a. a system for dealing with emergency telephone calls be designed and implemented for the three weeks prior to fall classes;
 - b. costs which international students will incur should be more liberally estimated;
 - c. information regarding travel to campus by bus, train, and cab be clearly provided in advance;
 - d. the mailing budget of OIP be increased to accommodate sending additional information; and
 - e. that OIP publicize the existence of its emergency loan fund for international students, and that OIP work to locate and/or develop alternative sources of emergency funding for this population.
 - f. that the OIP work with the individual schools to establish an international friendship program (by fall, 1990) which pairs members of the University community with incoming international students.
2. In regard to housing concerns:
 - a. the special emergency resources of the Office of Off-Campus Living be communicated to the school and departmental coordinators of student services; and
 - b. that the international friendship hosts, recommended above, be given adequate information to guide international students and their families to use the resources available at Penn to locate affordable housing.
3. In regard to Student Health Services:
 - a. the OIP and Student Health increase their efforts to educate the international student community about health insurance and to schedule their programs at times that do not coincide with the peak of student orientation;
 - b. the Office of the VPUL examine and work with OIP to recommend a solution to the problem of uninsured students; and
 - c. the OIP and Student Health collaborate to clarify explanatory information about the current health insurance policy.
4. In regard to space concerns:
 - a. the Office of Student Life and Physical Plant work with OIP to communicate their policies concerning room reservations to international students, and
 - b. the OSL work with GAPSA to prepare a revised version of the Student Activities Council Handbook for nationality groups.

The overriding theme in these recommendations is communication—the timing, format, and clarity. Mechanisms are in place which answer many concerns voiced by international students, but misunderstandings and lack of effective communications still exist. It will take a concerted effort to better meet their needs.

The International Programs Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Principal concerns of many international students were found to be an adequate awareness of their academic progress and the likely continuance of initial financial support from Penn. For many, these matters are coupled. Improvement of this situation appears to lie with the University academic units, under the Office of the Provost.
 - a. Each academic unit should evaluate student progress, and advise any student concerning shortcomings, in the Spring semester.
 - b. Uncertainties in or impending termination of financial aid should be communicated to any affected student by the end of the Spring semester.
 - c. All interests would be served by attempting to guide affected students to other funded activities, in appropriate areas.
2. Section B.6 above concerns the need for an advocacy function for these international students. It is recommended that a standing sub-

committee of the I.P.C. be formed which will function in the role of an advocate for international students. The advocate function should be designed to provide an independent resource designed to work out problems which arise, for example, from misunderstandings of University procedures, from conflicts between student needs and present practices and from the inevitable unanticipated situations which arise.

3. Our interactions with "student nationality groups" indicated that this potentially very valuable configuration may possibly be more effectively developed. The individual groups appear largely isolated from each other. Most groups have no structure. Very effective procedures concerning, for example, pre-arrival information, short-term hosting and accommodations and arranging housing, are highly developed in some groups. They are absent in others. There appears to be very little sharing of either procedures or of experiences between groups.

It is recommended that further consideration be given to the concept of forming an "assembly of nationality groups". It could consist of the leaders of each nationality group at Penn. This assembly would need the focus provided by desk space, which might be positioned in the shared space of GSAC/GAPSA. The functions of this assembly could, for example, include the following:

- a) In Fall, compiling a list of groups and members, including visiting-scholars who participate in the various groups.
- b) The assembly, by a committee, of a list of measures related to solving resource problems, such as professional legal aid and medical care for dependents.

Summary

The responsibility for implementing the above recommendations lies with the various offices and student groups. These measures should be implemented to improve the academic environment for international students at Penn. The two committees involved must assess the future responses to the above recommendations. They also should continue to review, as a part of their responsibilities, the special concerns and needs of international students.

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Appendix A

Foreign Student and Scholar Statistics, Academic Year 1988-89

The 1988-89 enrollment of 2654 foreign students from 114 countries represents a 15% increase over the preceding year. In the five years since 1984-85 the foreign student enrollment at the University has increased by almost 30%. Foreign students represent 12.7% of the total full-time student enrollment of 18,435 — 6.1% of the undergraduate student population and 18.6% of the graduate/professional. (The 177 students on practical training and the 138 English Language Program students category are not included in these percentiles.)

This year's geographical breakdown shows a 32.8% increase in the number of students from Japan. This increase is due primarily to the increase in the enrollment of Japanese students in the English Language Program. Along with Japan, Korea, China, India and Taiwan remain the top five feeder countries, all representing increases in the numbers of students enrolled. The distribution of students by geographical regions remains relatively unchanged over the previous year.

The foreign student statistics are compiled annually and a summary of the foreign student statistics are reported to the Institute of International Education for inclusion in its publication, *Open Doors*. These figures include only those full-time students on non-immigrant visas; they do not include persons with immigrant or refugee status.

The national statistics on foreign student enrollment for the 1987-88 (*Open Doors*) ranked the University of Pennsylvania, with an enrollment of 2255, 4th among private institutions and 13th among all post-secondary institutions.

The Office of International Programs also keeps records on the visiting scholars from abroad who enter the United States under the visa

sponsorship of the University. These statistics do not include those scholars affiliated with the University, but whose visas are sponsored by other organizations such as the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars. In addition, foreign scholars who come to Penn for short stays of several days or weeks may also not be included in these figures. So while not inclusive, the 508 scholars from 55 countries currently at this University, represent many of the scholars who visit our campus from around the world.

We are pleased to announce that our in-house foreign student database is functioning and is now able to generate a variety of reports based on school or department affiliation, country of citizenship, field of study, years of study, source of funding, etc. We have begun the conversion of our foreign scholar database to RBase System V and in the near future hope to be able to provide similar reports about the foreign scholar population. If you would like more information about the foreign student or scholar population in your school, or have any questions about these statistics please feel free to call me.

—Ann Kuhlman, Associate Director
Office of International Programs

Foreign Students: A Statistical Overview

	1988-9	1987-8	1986-7	1985-6	1984-5
Total	2654	2255	2125	2012	1866
Male	1931	1670	1589	1533	1448
Female	723	585	536	479	418
Single	2046	1685	1643	1498	1401
Married	608	570	482	514	465
Academic Level					
Undergraduate	576	501	420	369	272
Masters	607	462	522	624	588
PhD	1029	978	870	737	625
Professional Training	58	53	47	29	19
Non-degree	69	58	47	84	94
Intensive English	138	85	63	61	97
Practical Training	177	118	156	108	171
Primary Source of Funding					
Personal/Family Funds	1273	1054	985	941	886
University of Pennsylvania	714	651	500	481	375
Home Government/University	193	191	196	197	185
Foreign Private	129	88	142	134	111
U.S. Government	78	83	91	101	107
U.S. Private	55	39	49	45	31
International Organization	35	31	6	5	-
Practical Training Income	177	118	156	108	171
Top Ten Feeder Countries					
Japan	271	182	146	137	145
Korea	213	198	208	195	172
China	189	151	120	89	59
India	188	161	145	127	133
Taiwan	161	144	160	143	140
Canada	152	120	105	98	87
United Kingdom	130	111	106	122	91
France	87	71	67	62	53
Philippines	69	62	57	52	47

Foreign Undergraduate/Graduate and Professional Students

	1988-1989		
	Undergraduate	Graduate/Professional	Other*
Total	576	1694	384
Male	424	1254	253
Female	152	440	131
Single	569	1141	336
Married	7	553	48
Primary Source of Funding			
Personal/Family Funds	438	673	162
University of Pennsylvania	88	592	34
Home Government/University	23	164	6
Foreign Private	7	121	1
U.S. Government	9	69	
U.S. Private	9	44	2
International Organization	2	31	2
Practical Training Income			177
Top Feeder Countries			
Japan (271)	23	120	128
Korea (213)	14	184	15
China (189)	8	166	15
India (188)	48	123	17
Taiwan (161)	8	136	17
Canada (152)	67	75	10
United Kingdom (130)	21	82	27
France (87)	11	41	35
Philippines (69)	21	38	10
Germany (58)	17	34	7
Hong Kong (56)	31	24	1
Pakistan (54)	29	21	4
Spain (47)	8	29	10
Italy (44)	9	32	3
Greece (42)	9	27	6
Malaysia (41)	28	13	
Mexico (41)	14	22	5

*Other includes non-degree students (69), students enrolled in the intensive English Program (138) and students who have graduated and who remain under the sponsorship of the University of Pennsylvania for a short period of practical work experience (177).

COUNCIL

Foreign Students: By Geographical Region 1988-89

East Asia (1092 = 41.15%)					
Burma	2	Japan	271	Philippines	69
China	189	Korea	213	Singapore	28
Hong Kong	56	Macao	1	Taiwan	161
Indonesia	30	Malaysia	41	Thailand	31
Europe (514 = 19.37%)					
Austria	4	Greece	42	Norway	5
Belgium	15	Iceland	2	Portugal	4
Denmark	7	Ireland	9	Spain	47
Finland	5	Italy	44	Sweden	16
France	87	Luxembourg	1	Switzerland	18
Germany	58	Netherlands	20	United Kingdom	130
South Asia (268 = 10.10%)					
Bangladesh	10	Mauritius	3	Pakistan	54
India	188	Nepal	3	Sri Lanka	10
Middle East and North Africa (228 = 8.59%)					
Algeria	16	Israel	39	Qatar	1
Bahrain	1	Jordan	7	Saudi Arabia	13
Cyprus	17	Kuwait	2	Syria	1
Egypt	24	Lebanon	17	Tunisia	10
Iran	27	Libya	2	Turkey	38
Iraq	6	Morocco	5	Yemen Arab Rep.	2
North America (193 = 7.27%)					
Canada	152	Mexico	41		
South America (139 = 5.24%)					
Argentina	31	Colombia	20	Peru	19
Bolivia	2	Ecuador	4	Suriname	1
Brazil	30	Guyana	2	Uruguay	2
Chile	13	Paraguay	1	Venezuela	14
Sub-Saharan Africa (99 = 3.73%)					
Botswana	2	Malawi	4	Swaziland	2
Cameroon	1	Nambia	1	Tanzania	2
Ethiopia	7	Nigeria	15	Togo	2
Ghana	7	Senegal	1	Uganda	3
Ivory Coast	1	Sierra Leone	4	Zaire	2
Kenya	4	Somalia	1	Zambia	2
Liberia	4	South Africa	24	Zimbabwe	1
Madagascar	1	Sudan	8		
Central American and Caribbean Islands (76 = 2.86%)					
Antigua	1	Costa Rica	5	Honduras	3
Bahamas	3	Dominican Rep.	10	Jamaica	6
Barbados	3	El Salvador	8	Neth. Antilles	3
Bermuda	1	Guatemala	5	Nicaragua	1
Br. West Indies	1	Haiti	1	Panama	16
				Trinidad & Tobago	9
Oceania (25 = .94%)					
Australia	21	New Zealand	4		
Eastern Europe (20 = .75%)					
Bulgaria	1	Poland	2	Yugoslavia	11
Hungary	5	Romania	1		

Total Number of Students: 2654

Number of Countries Represented: 114

Foreign Students: Enrollment by School

School	1988-9	1987-8	1986-7	1985-6	1984-5
School of Arts & Sciences					
The College	188	162	125	111	95
Graduate Faculty	518	501	481	482	465
College of General Studies	24	20	17	26	12
English Language Program*	138	85	63	61	97
Total	868	768	686	680	669
The Wharton School					
Undergraduate	175	153	129	106	83
Graduate (MBA & PhD)	421	356	366	401	385
Evening Program	37	34	40	56	55
Total	633	543	535	563	523
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences					
Undergraduate	201	171	140	89	69
Graduate (MSE & PhD)	205	189	199	193	151
Total	406	360	339	282	220
Graduate School of Fine Arts					
	259	214	205	209	180
The Law School					
	67	47	54	49	38
Graduate School of Education					
	58	54	45	26	17
School of Dental Medicine					
(DMD and Postdoctoral Students)	50	38	26	15	14
Annenberg School of Communications					
	45	39	26	28	18
Biomedical PhD Program					
	35	24			
Lauder Institute					
	16	19	20	16	
School of Social Work					
	14	10	5	8	7
School of Nursing					
Undergraduate	1	0	4	2	—
Graduate	13	4	9	8	3
Total	14	4	13	10	3
School of Veterinary Medicine					
(VMD and Internships)	7	13	12	14	4
School of Medicine					
	5	4	3	4	2
Practical Training**					
	177	118	156	108	171
Total	2654	2255	2125	2012	1866

* This figure reflects the number of full time students on non-immigrant visas during the Fall II session of the English Language Program (October-December 1988.)

** Foreign students are permitted a short period of practical training employment after the completion of their academic program during which time they remain under the visa sponsorship of the University of Pennsylvania.

Appendix A tables continue on next page.

Appendix B, the Welcome Book; Appendix C, a description of summer positions available to assist new foreign students; and Appendices D and E, which relate to reservation of space, are available from the Office of the Secretary, 121 College Hall/6303.

Foreign Scholars: School Affiliation March 1989

School of Medicine	233	Music	1
Biochemistry/Biophysics	44	Oriental Studies	1
Medicine	26	Political Science	1
Pathology	15	School of Engineering & Applied Sciences	45
Pediatrics	14	Material Sciences & Engineering	24
Radiology	14	Computer & Information Science	11
Microbiology	13	Mechanical Engineering	4
OB/GYN	13	Bioengineering	3
Physiology	13	Chemical Engineering	1
Surgery	13	Systems	1
Neurology	11	Unspecified	1
Psychiatry	8	The Wharton School	26
Anatomy	7	Management	7
Pharmacology	6	Finance	6
Ophthalmology	5	Decision Sciences	3
Rheumatology	5	Public Policy Management	2
Dermatology	4	Accounting	2
Human Genetics	4	Unspecified	2
Cardiology	3	Snyder Center	1
Cerebrovascular	2	Statistics	1
Immunology	2	Marketing	1
Infectious Diseases	2	Wurster Center	1
Molecular Biology	2	School of Veterinary Medicine	21
Anesthesiology	1	School of Dental Medicine	11
Clinical Epidemiology	1	Graduate School of Education	10
Endocrinology	1	Monell Chemical Senses Center	8
Histology	1	Children's Hospital	6
Oncology	1	Graduate School of Fine Arts	6
Otorhinolaryngology	1	Pennsylvania Muscle Institute	3
Urology	1	Annenberg School of Communications	2
School of Arts and Sciences	132	The Law School	2
Chemistry	35	Morris Arboretum	1
Biology	26	School of Social Work	1
Economics	14	University Museum	1
Physics	13	Total	508
Mathematics	10		
Regional Science	6		
History	5		
Psychology	4		
Linguistics	3		
Romance Languages	3		
Anthropology	2		
English	2		
Religious Studies	2		
Art History	1		
Astronomy	1		
English Language Program	1		
Folklore	1		

Foreign Scholars*: Listing by Citizenship March 1989

Total	508		
Japan	85	Hong Kong	3
China	83	Netherlands	3
India	50	Portugal	3
United Kingdom	43	South Africa	3
Canada	20	Yugoslavia	3
Germany	19	Austria	2
France	17	Bangladesh	2
Poland	15	Lebanon	2
Israel	14	Egypt	2
Korea	13	Greece	2
Spain	13	USSR	2
Italy	12	Algeria	1
Hungary	9	Burundi	1
Iran	7	Ecuador	1
Nigeria	7	Ethiopia	1
Taiwan	7	Finland	1
Argentina	6	Honduras	1
Australia	5	Ireland	1
Colombia	5	Iraq	1
Mexico	5	Ivory Coast	1
Turkey	5	Kenya	1
Belgium	4	Malaysia	1
Philippines	4	Norway	1
Sweden	4	Peru	1
Switzerland	4	Romania	1
Brazil	3	Tunisia	1
Chile	3	Zambia	1
Denmark	3		

Visa Classifications

J-1 Exchange Visitor	454	H-1 Status	54
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* Each year the University and its affiliated hospitals and institutes host hundreds of scholars from around the world. They occupy faculty and staff positions, as participants in exchange programs, visiting professors, lecturers and researchers. Their lengths of stay vary from several days to several years. The Office of International Programs maintains records on the majority of Penn's visiting scholars, i.e. those who enter the United States with the visa sponsorship of the University of Pennsylvania. These statistics do not include those scholars affiliated with the University, but whose visas are sponsored by other organizations such as the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars. In addition, foreign scholars who come to Penn for short stays of several days or weeks, may also not be included in these figures.