Internationalizing the Campus: Creating Active Links with Colleges and Departments

Dr. Leena Chakrabarti
English Language Program
Kansas State University
General Information

- History of The English Language Program (ELP)
- Spring 2010 Pre-enrollment orientation
- Future Plans
- Conclusion - Information for other IEPs
History

- Change in ELP demographics around 2004
- Large Increase in the number of students
- Shift from graduate students to undergraduate students
- Student needs changed
- Undergraduates need more guidance and hand-holding
Increase in numbers led to partnerships between the ELP and Colleges
Initial partnerships were sporadic and as-needed
With the increase in numbers, various colleges and the ELP felt a need for a more systematic approach
History (contd.)

➢ Three main partnerships formed with the ELP:
  ➢ College of Engineering
  ➢ College of Business
  ➢ College of Arts and Sciences
Engineering

- A large college with 8 departments
- Significant growth in number of international students
- The ELP/Engineering partnership started in 2005
- The initial process was bumpy, trying to integrate and transfer credits from international universities
Engineering (contd.)

• One centralized person in an advisory position for all transitioning international students, Asst. Dean Larry Satzler

• Exhausting and time-consuming process for Dean Satzler to advise them individually

• In Fall of 2009, they tried a college-wide international orientation, but it was not very successful
Currently has the largest number of international students

Here too the partnership with ELP started out as sporadic and on an as-needed basis

College of Business has a group of five advisors,

Lead advisor is Bente Janda
College of Business started international orientations in fall ’08

International students in upper level English classes had to attend a special orientation before they could meet with a business advisor.

We advertised the orientations through our student listserves and made sure our students attended them.

This model enforced by Business and ELP has been quite successful.
Arts and Sciences

- Largest college at Kansas State University—26 departments
- Very decentralized
- Partnerships usually at the department level
- We work with Asst. Dean of Student Services, Alison Wheatley, regarding undecided students and pre-med and pre-law students
Spring 2010
ELP Pre-Enrollment Orientation

➢ Need for a more centralized system to integrate international students into the main university

➢ Collaboration of two university units:
  Office of International Programs – ELP and ISSS
  Office of Student Life

➢ Coordinated and organized mainly by the ELP
Preparation for International Pre-Enrollment

- Several meetings with the colleges with the most international students to arrange date, time, venue and format
- Contact special programs such as Leadership Studies and First Year Seminar to present at the event
- Required registration for two weeks
- All students who would like to participate in pre-enrollment
Preparation for International Pre-Enrollment

- Purpose was to make sure students would participate in this event
- Check student accounts for holds and remove before pre-enrollment
- Send names and number of students in each college and give the colleges time to prepare for pre-enrollment
- Get informational packets and folders ready for each individual student before the event
Pre-Enrollment Orientation

- Colleges that participated: Business, Engineering, Arts & Sciences, Human Ecology, Agriculture
- Half a day in the afternoon
- Cancel intensive English classes in exit levels (transitioning levels)
- Two sessions to enable all students to participate
Pre-Enrollment Orientation

- Each session divided into two parts: a general section for all students in all colleges

- Break-up into individual college sessions in different rooms at the Student Union
Future Plans

Debriefing after the event

• Positive comments
  - Very helpful
  - Reduced students trickling in for advising and enrollment

• Areas of Improvement
  - Shorter general introduction
  - Break between general and college orientation
Conclusion—Ideas for other IEPS

- Crucial to include international students in the university family
- To develop partnerships, **first step** is to identify key people in various colleges and offices
- Initial partnerships could be sporadic and as-needed
- Move toward a more systematic partnership with colleges
Conclusion—Ideas for other IEPS

- Be open to suggestions from colleges, students and other involved offices
- **Ultimate goal** is to develop a process by which international students are integrated into the University as a whole