



November, 2015

Conversations on International Student Affairs and Services Purpose:

The International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS) was one of several organizations involved in the Global Summit on Student Affairs in 2012. One of the major areas explored in the Global Summit meeting was what it means to serve in student affairs and services roles across the various regions of the world. The conclusion reached at the meeting, and reinforced through a variety of other interactions since, is that there is no consensus about this work and that it would be helpful if there was.

In 2014 we asked are colleagues and leaders in IASAS to hold conversations on three questions that may help us to decide if there was a consensus to our work. We were grateful for the conversations that were held in Europe, the UK and Canada. We did report on what we found at the 2014 Global Summit. We would like to seek information from the regions around the world we did not hear from. Thus, IASAS we are seeking partners in Asia, Africa and Oceania to hold conversations over the next year. These conversations could be included as programs within existing conferences or the conversations could be meetings called for colleagues who are interested in and could contribute to this topic. The conversations will be simple and straight-forward, responding to the following questions:

- How do you view students and what do you seek to achieve in your work with them?
- What is the core of your work and how do you do it?
- What skills are required to complete this work with students?

All that a convener has to do is to pose these three questions to a small group (10-15 is suggested) and ask one individual to record the responses either on a newsprint pad or writing board or take notes that can be shared back with the group. If the convener has a group larger than 10-15, several groups could be formed with each pursuing their own conversation but sharing perspectives once the initial brainstorming takes place. After the conversations, conveners are asked to summarize the responses to the two questions and send them to Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo at lbardillmoscaritolo@pace.edu and/or Dennis "Denny" Roberts at dcroberts48@gmail.com.

All responses will be compiled and shared on the IASAS website in 2016 or 2017.

IASAS believes that these conversations are key to building consensus, fostering support, and advocating for the enhancement of students' learning experiences around the world. The evidence gathered on the impact of student affairs and services is that the more that is offered to students, the more likely they are to stay in university, to persist to graduation, and to gain from their overall educational experience. The "purpose" conversations will help to create unity around these critical outcomes.

In order to obtain this additional support, contact Dr. Roberts or Dr. Bardill Moscaritolo.