

Task Force on International Student Climate

Summary of Achievements and Future Work

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Charge

The Task Force on International Student Climate was proposed on January 6, 2026 by Interim Provost Reddi. The task force was chaired by Faculty Senate Chair Vimal Chaitanya and included IPC Director Derek Yu, Deputy Provost James McAteer, Graduate College Dean Ranjit Koodali, and Prof. Kristian Finlator. The Task force charge comprised three expectations:

1. evaluate our current activities orienting new international students;
2. study best practices at our peer institutions, and
3. make recommendations on improvements, suggest new activities which may require new resources or reallocation of existing resources.

It was additionally suggested that the task force should perform a satisfaction survey of international graduate students to learn more about issues from their perspective. It was expected that the task force should meet 6-8 times total.

Achievements

Meetings were held on 1/14/2026, 1/26/2026, 2/16, 2026, and 4/24/2026.

- The Task Force designed and disseminated a survey of international graduate students. The survey remained open for a month, garnering 169 responses. A separate document presents full results, summaries of feedback, 12 resulting recommendations, and actions that are being taken in response.
- IPC Director Yu presented a draft of an exhaustive, standalone onboarding handbook that immediately addresses many of the concerns that surfaced in the survey. He also presented a draft one-page flowchart illustrating the immigration and moving process. He received feedback on both documents.
- Dean Koodali shared a draft Canvas Course that all graduate students will be invited to work through once their enrollment is detected on Slate; this course will complement the IPC handbook. He received feedback on the course shell, and a student worker will continue to improve the course over the summer of 2026.
- Inspired by conversations that occurred the Task Force's meetings, the Faculty Senate Student Success Committee surveyed NMSU's academic colleges regarding the level of guaranteed financial support their units offer incoming international graduate students. Their report will be published to the Faculty Senate website.

Future Work

A number of questions and potential action items were raised by the Task Force that could not be resolved in one term, and that merit re-visiting in the future. Among these are:

- It is recommended that ASNMSU consider arranging a "grocery shuttle" that can help students who live on campus without a car do their shopping.
- It is recommended that ASNMSU consider purchasing a set of Sprintax codes in order to help international graduate students file their taxes. Alternatively, NMSU could cover this cost, as is done by [Grand Valley](#) and [CU](#).
- NMSU should hire an international recruiter. Currently, only NMSU-Global does this.
- Four of the recommendations emerging from survey responses related to housing. On-campus housing options raise a variety of issues that go far beyond what the task force could address. A new, consolidated vision for on-campus housing at NMSU is needed.

Additionally, a number of the action items stemming from the survey (such as the development of extracurricular English language support) require long-term commitment. Therefore, it would be worth re-visiting these documents in fall 2026 to assess progress.