**May 11, 2018**

International Students and Scholars Committee:

I have had an opportunity to review the minutes from the committee’s April 25th meeting, and I’ve learned that we have a common goal in mind. Both the committee, the visiting parties, and my department want to ensure that international students are well prepared to succeed in the courses they take on this campus, and that begins with strengthening their written and oral communication skills. Developing those skills are high priorities in the international student centered sections of UC 0143 Writing Fundamentals and UC 0164 Academic Literacy (integrated reading and writing) offered on the Jonesboro campus. UC 0164 is linked with a Comp I class specifically for international students. This was done for the first time at my request last summer. The same was offered this past fall semester, and will be offered again in the fall of 2018. The classes we offer for international students are not viewable in self-service so that we control who enrolls in the courses, which is why the committee is only able to see a UC 0164 section at the Paragould campus.

As with the committee, it is equally important to me that this student population is taught by well qualified instructors, which is why the department employs a full-time instructor with two degrees in English, one earned at Arkansas State University after coming to this country to pursue education much like the students he teaches daily. I think there has been a miscommunication of what is covered in the UC 0143 and 0164 courses. Grammar is covered, but there is also heavy paragraph and essay development. The CONNECT software is a support tool used in the course to allow the students to practice the skills they are developing. It is not the sole method of instruction.

I am an advocate for all students that come through the Transition Studies program, and I am always willing to work collaboratively with whomever to educate our students. I look forward to working with the committee moving forward to provide the preparation needed to help our international student population succeed at Arkansas State University.

Sincerely,

Toccara Carter

Transition Studies