

“CONNECTIONS”

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Member: Division of International Studies Dean’s Advisory Board; Wisconsin China Initiative Board

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Good evening.

I have the pleasure of serving on both the [Division of International Studies](#) Advisory Board and the [Wisconsin China Initiative](#) Leadership Board. Apparently, aside from Dean Bousquet himself, I am the only person here tonight to be a member of both boards of visitors. While the Dean told me that I could comment tonight on just about anything, I thought that I would take a few minutes and comment on something that my dual role qualifies me to do. I will comment on the connection between the two boards as I see it.

In order to understand how the boards are related let’s look at each one of them alone. The Division of International Studies Advisory Board has now been in existence for several years. It was formed to assist the Division in positioning and advancing the University of Wisconsin as a global player and a global resource. It was also constituted to help the Division of International Studies become a resource to the university itself.

As one example of being a global player, I envision the University of Wisconsin as a place where the world’s businesses can go to find employees who have more than just the required course work to do a job. I see a place that nurtures and trains people to broaden their perspectives beyond the classroom and to embrace cultures, languages, and philosophies that will enable them to do the job effectively in distant places where they are needed.

An actual example of this international cooperative effort is in the School of Agricultural and Life Sciences which participates in the Sino-US Dairy Center. It represents a partnership between the University of Wisconsin and the China Agricultural University.

And, for the university, the board is there to assist the Division to be a resource to other colleges, divisions, and schools. I see the Division as a resource where these entities can go to help find pathways to the world for their students. Study abroad, (and there are some 230 study abroad programs at this university) is an example of a program where, say, a bright electrical engineering student can spend a year abroad learning about the alien culture that will actually use a piece of electrical equipment that that student has spent so many classroom hours trying to understand.

All of these are examples of the efforts that the Division and its [Advisory Board](#) support.

About a year or so ago the university embarked upon the Wisconsin China Initiative. A board was created to further the efforts of this initiative. The university and the Division have correctly identified China as possessing a wealth of opportunities for major interaction and exchange. The board is charged

with assisting the Division on several fronts. The charge includes an effort to motivate students to study China and to assist in identifying and supporting faculty to that end.

The Initiative and its board is also looking at the economic and social opportunities that China has to offer the state of Wisconsin and that Wisconsin has to offer China. The just-completed trade mission to China under the auspices of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce is a prime example of the kind of program that the Wisconsin China Initiative supports.

So what exactly is the connection between these two boards besides the University of Wisconsin and Dean Bousquet?

Well let's talk about **CONNECTION**.

Here are some synonyms for the word "connection".

CONTACT- Both the Division of International Studies Board and the Wisconsin China Initiative Board are actively making contacts to further their goals.

They are both seeking **ALLIES**, another synonym, within the university, the State of Wisconsin, and the world as a whole.

FRIEND- Both boards are looking for friends and that is closely related to the next synonym **SPONSOR**.

If I didn't mention money, I would be remiss. Both boards are charged with locating and developing sponsors who can help facilitate the important projects I have discussed.

There is a vast **NETWORK** (another synonym for connection) of people related in some way to the people in this room. I believe that both boards will successfully tap into this network for financial and other support.

And the list goes on. **ASSOCIATE, FRIEND, INTERMEDIARY, MENTOR, RELATIVE**.

All about connections.

So what's the connection between the two boards ... it ... is connections. We build them, we nurture them, and we use them toward meaningful ends.

Thank you for coming to Madison to make your connections and thank you for letting me connect with you.