



The International Programs Center

May 1, 1997

TO: Committee on International Students

FROM: Subcommittee on Student Services

RE: **Subcommittee Report**

This subcommittee was charged by the Committee on International Students to assess the satisfaction level of current international students and to identify both existing problems to be addressed and new services to be provided if UNCG is to increase successfully its population of international students. This subcommittee has spent these last few months responding to the stated charge. We have researched what is currently offered on campus and have polled other campuses regarding their services and programs. The subcommittee also held one focus group with international students and individual members have solicited information from international students and faculty/staff within their own units.

Attached is a summary of recommendations which are the results of the subcommittee's investigations and discussions regarding services and programs for international students at UNCG. Because conversations with currently enrolled students suggest that these are the most critical times in determining the persistence and satisfaction of international students, many of the recommendations are directed at the contact students have with UNCG prior to their arrival on campus and in their first few weeks at UNCG.

An overriding theme in the recommendations is that UNCG must direct more resources towards international students if that population is to grow and be successful. Without directed student support in areas such as language training and cultural support, international students are considered at academic risk, and some university faculty and staff are hesitant to encourage and recruit international students. The opposing argument is that without a sufficient number of international students it is difficult to justify the allocation of specialized resources, but this subcommittee feels very strongly that without the support in place the larger numbers will not materialize. This system of support should include establishment of a full-time international student advisor, an intentional international student recruitment effort, and expanded opportunities for financial aid / support for international students at the graduate and undergraduate level.