

IUP CSA Minutes 8-29-2025

Attendees:

Dr. Waleed Farag, Dr. Soundararajan Ezekiel, Cherokee Schrecengost, Ainsley Weidensall, Nicholas Reid, Nicholas Kuech, Julia O'Brien, Carina Warr, Allison Stiteler, Noah Grattan, Shari Hoch

Minutes

1. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients. Thank you to new students (Cherokee, Ainsley, Nicholas R.) for attending the GWU bootcamp in July.
2. Grant not yet received by IUP. Dr. Farag is ensuring no negative consequences (late fees, etc.) are taken against student accounts.
3. Correction: Allison will have 15 credits this semester, not 18
4. Kick-off meeting will happen once grant is awarded. Time is uncertain but expected soon.
5. IUP bookstore special accounts are set up, \$500 allowance for textbooks.
6. New students: IUP decided that CSA scholarship's benefits exceed cost of attendance at IUP, so other scholarship sources may be cancelled/ greatly reduced. This is handled by Financial Aid.
7. Living stipend will be distributed as \$14,500 per semester on the NextGen system.
8. Once grant received, each new student should identify desired specs for laptop/PC, to be reimbursed up to \$1,650. Email Dr. Farag and Dr. Ezekiel with a link to the choice, to be approved by Dr. Ezekiel.
9. Dr. Farag is officially on leave for this semester, copy Dr. Ezekiel on all communications for faster responses.
10. All students declined health insurance through CSA.
11. All students are reminded of responsibilities of scholarship; GPA 3.2+, on-time graduation, participate in program, fulfill all PMO obligations.
12. Work with IUP point-of-contacts (Dr. Farag and Dr. Ezekiel) for questions about the program. In general, ask the professors first, if told to reach out to DoD CSA office make sure to CC professors. Contact with your sponsoring agency is private, do not include professors.
13. If you want to work for your agency during the school year, notify Dr. Farag, maximum 20 hours per week.
14. Suggestion for peer mentoring (informal):
 - a. Julia and Allison for Ainsley
 - b. Shair and Nicholas K for Nicholas R
 - c. Carina and Noah for Cherokee

15. Must attend all meetings, promote CSA and cybersecurity among students, participate in cyber-related extracurriculars, update PI with any academic progress issues as soon as possible, work on assigned tasks including research projects
16. Submit a portfolio of cyber-related activities (to be discussed further at future meetings)
17. Renewal is dependent on performance, fulfillment of obligations, recommendation from PI.
18. Question raised about number of credits for last semester of senior year- clarified that this case allows for less than 12 credits but make sure to inform Dr. Farag so financial aid can be allocated correctly.
19. Some agencies are delaying the job requirement due to current federal circumstances. Should not be an issue for us, but informal suggestion made to ensure a “plan B” is in place so students can avoid lapse in job/income.
20. Email is to be official method of communication for questions regarding CSA.
21. Students are reminded that DoD CSA funds are ONLY for fall and spring semesters. Any coursework in winter or summer is not covered.

Respectfully submitted by Cherokee Schrecengost and Dr. Waleed Farag