Remaining Nimble in the Madness:

Fort Hays State University’s Approach to International Student Services During the Pandemic Shutdown

Photo by Joshua Hoehne on Unsplash
Founded in 1902, Fort Hays State University was originally located on the grounds of Fort Hays, a frontier military outpost.

FHSU is now a regional comprehensive public university whose mission is to develop the engaged global citizen-leaders our world needs today.

The FHSU Tigers are members of the D2 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) conference.
Winning Record: Snapshot of Internationalization at FHSU

- On-campus | Online | Cross-border
- Lengthy history of remote/online education at FHSU
- Track record for good quality
- Economic impact of international students

“We were in the right position at the right time to flip.”
International students are good for Kansas!

Source: NAFSA: Association of International Educators | nafsa.org
Recruitment: Rethink the playbook

• Weekly Zoom meetings with current students (present & remote)
• Engaged online with prospective students
• Added Duolingo as an online testing option
• More flexibility with documentation
• More individualization
Zone Defense: Teaching Innovation and Learning Technologies (TILT)

Focus on international students **abroad**:
- Their expectations: connection!
- Colonialization fallacy: Our educational system isn’t the world model
- Perceived limitations (the Great Firewall)
We can’t take for granted that we have the best approach. We have to take into consideration the cultures we’re working with. That’s our starting point.

- Andrew Feldstein, FHSU Assistant Provost
  Teaching Innovation and Learning Technologies
Pivot: Adjust to the context

- Pare down to basics
- Conversions into Mandarin
- Async vs lecture delivery
- Server hosting in-country
- Blackboard integration into WeChat
- Whitelisting individual email accounts
We can be confident that we do a lot of things well, but we must do them well in context.
Special thanks to my FHSU teammates:

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