

**Committee on International Students and Scholars (CISS)**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Minutes - Prepared by Jason Wynn**

**Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA. | 12:00pm, PSC Rm. 212**

**Chair:** Brett Reichert- Georgia State University - Downtown

**Vice Chair:** Marisa Atencio, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Member at Large:** Veronique Barnes, Georgia State University - Perimeter College

**Member at Large:** Jason Wynn, Georgia College and State University

In attendance:

Armstrong State University – Dorothee Mertz-Weigel

Augusta University – Beth Koons and Beverly Tarver

College of Coastal Georgia – Connie Toler

Fort Valley State College – Calandra Wright

Georgia College & State University – Jason Wynn and Susie Ramage

Georgia Gwinnett College – Funwi Ayuninjam

Georgia Institute of Technology – Marisa Atencio

Georgia Southern University – Tanya Brakhage and Patricia Beavan

Georgia State University – Brett Reichert

Kennesaw State University – Aleksandra Ninoma Parris

University of Georgia – Robin Catmur

University of North Georgia - Ronda Dowell

Valdosta State University – Danielle Bacud

University System of Georgia – Tammy Rosner

**Call to Order & Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes - Brett Reichert**

Announcement: Shea Robinson is no longer with International Education. Tammy Rosner will provide updates on SA and other points, later.

Brett Calls the meeting to order. Review of Minutes. Sue Ann moves to approve. Beverly Tarver seconds. Brett states that minutes are approved.

Minutes from previous meetings are now on the USG website.

**New Business**

**1. USG OIE Update, Tammy Rosner, Director**

- a. Memo will go out to research institution presidents right away from USG regarding new Sept 2017 travel ban and a statement to all USG schools will go out within 24 hours.
- b. ESL Program Approvals: The USG system office is in the final stages of approval process. Information due back to Tammy today.

- c. Reminder – USG schools can accept completion of a USG approved ESL program as proof of English Language Proficiency.
- d. First ESL meetup next week.
- e. If schools change the measures for English Language proficiency that they accept for admission, let Tammy know. Also, if a change in program (ESL) occurs, please let Tammy know. Every three years, there will be an approval of ESL programs in the USG system.
- f. **\*\*English Language Proficiency Updates \*\*** -- English proficiency measurement chart—new—proof of English Language Proficiency can be shown by completion of the equivalent of ENGL of 1101 or 1102 from an accredited U.S. institution with a grade of C or better.
- g. English language proficiency score collection: Effective in Summer 2017 we now collect proof of how someone met English Language proficiency in BANNER. Each chart is on Georgia Best website [http://www.usg.edu/georgia\\_best/](http://www.usg.edu/georgia_best/). If you need the password to access the site, please contact Tammy.
- h. Call for working group to review International Admit codes and criteria (FI and TI) as addressed in section 3.2.6 in the Academic & Student Affairs Handbook How does your school interpret this section of the handbook? Reviewers: Robin, Beverly, Jason, and Calandra.
- i. Sprintax: Tammy Rosner needed #s on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September.
- j. Tammy would also like a calendar of events for activities with international students (e.g. international day, IEW etc.). She will collect information on events so that she can share with the USG. We recommend that each institution report their activities to the Dept. of State.
- k. Study Abroad Position in USG OIE office. Tammy says the position will close on Friday.
- l. TRAVEL BAN – Tammy had a call at 12:30 with Legal Affairs. Dr. Joyce Jones and Tammy were in the meeting as well. The USG will use the white house statement (updated facts) as a basis, and Tammy has asked them to add language that we welcome international students on campus.

Tammy asked if (other than Iran or Venezuela) we will see any effects of the Travel Ban. Tammy also wants to know if there is anything specific we want to address. Robin and Marisa want the USG to know that the statement shouldn't be so student-focused. Faculty, scholars and researchers will be impacted. "Students, faculty and staff" should be included. Brett stated—We want the statement worded in such a way that everyone knows that the statement/information could change. Within 24 hours we should have a statement.

We should not send any emails, etc. regarding the travel ban now. If we want to send out a message regarding the travel ban, it must be approved via our communications officer, who will likely connect to the USG communications officer.

## **2. Next CBP Visit at ATL Airport Announced**

- a. Thurs. 10/5, 11am. Contact your SEVP Field Rep for details or to get on the list for future visits.
- b. We must get on a list with our CBP rep, says Brett. Brett nor Robin have responded and there is no confirmation. The majority of the room has not received a notice from CBP about this. Brett will follow up with Rebecca Andre to ask about a tour of the ATL airport CBP area to inquire on behalf of the group about a plan for us.

### 3. Updates on phase out of GOASEVS in Banner / when?

- a. GT – no dates set but phase out is anticipated to happen in November.
- b. GSU – Banner 9.0 to be rolled out soon / GA Summit input
- c. Others?
- d. Ellucian is phasing out the use of GOASEVS and will be moving everything to GOINTL. GT has no dates set for their changeover. GSU has yet to install Banner 9.0, which is a requirement for the transition. Everyone should make contact with IT people on each campus to make sure that they have a plan for the transition. Change is coming and it will affect our processes.

### 4. Cost of Living level for initial I-20 issuance.

- a. When / How to update / Best Practices

1. Not an easy process. Brett's office hasn't updated in over ~ 12 years.
  2. UGA updates costs every year. Tuition and expense updated by USG (spring/summer). Initial I-20 goes out with old figures in spring. They use Sunapsis, but there are ~ 30 templates attached. Cost of living itself is deferred to financial aid (University of Georgia). Robin says that COA is for 9 months to save the headache of listing 12 months. Most in the meeting have only used 9 month estimate.
  3. Callendra Wright asked about updating I-17. Robin says that I-17 is updated annually with AVERAGE. Some discussion about costs for different programs took place.
  4. Tanya has always been concerned about providing I-20 with last year's amount. Tanya adjusts up for the next academic year so that students are prepared. Robin used to do the same and makes a notation. Robin says that when you sign the I-20 you are signing that everything is accurate and legal *as of that date*.
- b. Brett: What is your educational plan to your campus when you change your I-20? How do you educate others involved, including Admissions? Recruiting staff need to know of changes too.
    1. Several say admissions is involved in the process, or everything is centralized. Many say that those students having trouble with costs are those who have no money at all, not those who didn't estimate correctly.
    2. Beverly Tarver uses estimates from The Financial Aid office as well.
    3. Tanya would like to have a resource for cost of living estimates (gov?) for scholars, etc.
    4. Some go so far as to work with realtors to find out local living costs - Beverly Tarvor
    5. Sue Ann says that cost of living should be 20%t above poverty level in your county.
    6. Brett says develop these standards with an Ad Hoc committee or peer institutions.
  - c. Calandra Wright wants to know how we deal with new or returning students with no funds.
    1. Brett says they handle them by showing them what they presented to get an I-20. If no money, there is possible visa fraud. Have a conversation. Educate students on federal deadlines that we do not control, and what happens upon termination.
    2. Possible approved early withdrawal vs. non-authorized withdrawal. Evidence is needed (newspaper story, etc. to support claims of sudden unexpected financial loss).

3. Sue Wright said that she's had times when she's helped them with political asylum or economic hardship.
  4. Marissa indicates that we should prepare students for all possible scenarios.
  5. Robin says that UGA sometimes uses presidential waivers (and add criteria to them) to help those students in need. UGA reserves 30 to 40 per year for economic cases.
- d. Robin asked if anyone adds in potential job (on campus) into proof of income.
1. She says that she might do that for those who are short a couple of thousand dollars.
  2. Jason Wynn noted that we only do that for those with a guaranteed graduate assistantships. Others agreed that this happens on their campuses.
- e. Brett called time on this topic and moved us along.
1. He suggested this would be a great topic for a GAIE session on issues related to I-20 cost of living best practices and scenarios related to initial entry and no funding.

#### **5. Expired Visas and GA DDS DL Renewals Update**

- a. Brett said this constituted a state-wide rejection of a routine state benefit (DDS denials of DL's of those with expired visas). The message began to affect many groups of aliens. Law Firms got involved. Angelique at DDS sent a memo recently saying that DDS branches could approve DLs with expired visas if individuals have "X, Y and Z" meaning the usual documents to prove lawful presence. Brett never got the memo, but he continues to push for a memo.
- b. Real ID Act and Federal Regulations had discrepancy with one word (and /or). Charles Kuck entertained lawsuit and DDS responded. However, the system-wide issue is not completely resolved.

#### **6. Possible End of J1 categories: intern, trainee, au pair...**

- a. There are some introductions of regulations that would possibly end certain J visitor categories.
- b. Marisa suggested that we understand that some audits are going on, and that we should focus on the school categories. "We must be really aware of our own categories" [even though these other categories are important].
- c. Marisa encourage everyone to view the NAFSA Gov't Connections (FREE) to see what other schools have gone through with audits. [Exchange Visitor Program \(J-1\) Site Visits](#)- September 5, 2017, Officials from the Department of State's Bureau of Educational Affairs (ECA) and members of NAFSA's International Student and Scholar Regulatory Practice Committee (ISS RP) discussed recent developments and focused on site visits that ECA has been conducting recently.
- d. Sue said that it's important to make sure that we are not abusing the J1 category for work instead of using H1B.
- e. Marissa said that in spring large schools were looked at, and later smaller schools will be too.

#### **7. Enrollment Trends and Issue at your campus**

- a. What impact, if any, are you seeing Fall 2017?
  1. AT GSU they have been insulated because of urban center effect. People will come anyway. They have seen a small decrease in undergraduate enrollment for the first time in many

years. Graduate enrollment continues to decline overall with small decrease in int'l enrollment. Also, at his school an increase in DACA enrollment at UG level only.

2. UGA – decline in last 3 years in graduate population—in face of huge increases of applicants. Decrease in grad enrollment. Decrease in undergrad enrollment. Decrease in scholars. Part of it political? Part of it economic? Part of it the fact that the south isn't welcoming? All these questions are being pondered.
3. Brett – The day after the 1<sup>st</sup> travel ban was instated, he saw two students who cancelled plans to come.
4. Brett – Any other comments?
5. Danielle is seeing increase in DACA students.
6. Sue Ann – rejection of visas for students. Mention of denial of visas for Pakistani students.

#### **8. Challenges / Inconsistencies with Change of Status Application and the B1/B2 bridge procedures being applied to other visa categories**

- a. Confusing on how to advise on change of status categories. Student is holding you accountable for advice and the outcome. Brett at GSU has decided to give a face evaluation of forms—and indicate that we are not responsible and strongly suggest that they work with an attorney. GSU will sit with student and help, but strongly encourage attorney to lessen liability.
- b. Beverly says they do not support change of status in country.
- c. Marisa – Some changes to Foreign Affairs manual. Used to be more lenient for student visa holders. Not now. Rules are now clearly applied across visa types.

#### **9. Visa Issuance & Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) 9 Updates:**

- a. Partial Discontinuance of Visa Issuance Under INA 243(d) impacting Cambodia, Eritrea, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Certain visas (vary by country but can include B, F, J,M) are discontinued until the respective countries begin accepting their repatriated citizens to the satisfaction of the United States.  
[http://www.nafsa.org/Professional\\_Resources/Browse\\_by\\_Interest/International\\_Students\\_and\\_Scholars/Discontinuance\\_of\\_Visa\\_Issuance\\_Under\\_INA\\_243\(d\)/](http://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Discontinuance_of_Visa_Issuance_Under_INA_243(d)/)
- b. DOS revised its FAM guidance on assessing residence abroad for F-1 students. The revision removed helpful prior language that had encouraged consular officers to consider the "inherent difference" between a young F-1 visa applicant and a short-term B visa applicant. The new FAM entry now applies the standard nonimmigrant residence abroad 9 FAM 401.1-3(F)(2) to F-1 students as well. The revised DOS FAM guidance makes applying for an F-1 visa more difficult because the non-immigrant residence abroad mirrors the short term B visa applicant standard. Advisors should consider what guidance is being given to students applying for F visas and ensure they are aware of the new guidance.  
[http://www.nafsa.org/Professional\\_Resources/Browse\\_by\\_Interest/International\\_Students\\_and\\_Scholars/Stricter\\_F-1\\_Residence\\_Abroad\\_Language\\_in\\_FAM/](http://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/Stricter_F-1_Residence_Abroad_Language_in_FAM/)
- c. Modifications to the Department of State Rule Regarding Misrepresentation and expansion of Presumption of Misrepresentation Rule to 90 Days. Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) guidance was revised on how consular officers should make determinations of inadmissibility under INA 212(a)(6)(C) which concerns the activities a visa applicant presented at the visa interview and

what activities they engaged in their first 90 days in the U.S. Under the new guidance, if a visa holder violates or engages in conduct inconsistent with his or her nonimmigrant status prior to 90 days after their entry into the United States, a presumption of willful misrepresentation arises and the individual is deemed inadmissible until they apply for/receive an Advisory Opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs in the DOS Bureau of Consular Affairs. Advisors should remain VERY cautious advising individuals who entered the U.S. with a visa and are seeking to engage in activities outside of the original purpose of their visit to the U.S. unless at least 90 days has passed.

[http://www.nafsa.org/Professional\\_Resources/Browse\\_by\\_Interest/International\\_Students\\_and\\_Scholars/DOS\\_Expands\\_Presumption\\_of\\_Misrepresentation\\_Rule\\_to\\_90\\_Days/](http://www.nafsa.org/Professional_Resources/Browse_by_Interest/International_Students_and_Scholars/DOS_Expands_Presumption_of_Misrepresentation_Rule_to_90_Days/)

- d. Many schools strongly encourage travel option. Robin says that they preface conversations by saying that they do not provide legal advice—just their advice. They advise them to talk to an attorney, but do not encourage leaving the country because there may be reasons the student shouldn't leave the country.
- e. Discussion about whether or not to put “advice” in writing—discussion between Funwi and Robin.
- f. Brett- make distinction between OPTIONS and ADVICE regarding change of status, etc.

#### **10. IEW awareness and planning**

Please share these with Tammy. International Education Week. Initiative of US Dep. of State and US Dept. of Education. November 13 – 17<sup>th</sup>. Department of State has a website for it and we can get ideas for the week from there.

#### **11. Upcoming Conferences**

- a. Region VII, Spartanburg, October 22-25, Nearing goal of 450 participants
- b. GAIE, Winter 2018, 1/31 – 2/2, 2018
- c. Advocacy Day, March 19-20, 2018

#### **12. Other issues / job announcements**

- a. Dept. of state does have an announcement
- b. Kennesaw State University – International Education Position
- c. Marisa – 2 ISS Advisor positions open at GT
- d. UNG: SIO position open.

#### **13. Next Meeting**

Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm