

# CISS Meeting Minutes

**21 June 2002**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Faculty Conference Room, Student Life Center  
Macon State College**

## **Members Present:**

James Anderson (Armstrong Atlantic)

Cora Mencer (Atlanta Metropolitan)

Neal McCrillis (Columbus State)

Yuliya Komarova (Columbus State)

Carlos Romero (Columbus State)

Chinwe Okpalaoka (Darton)

Laura Lee Bernstein (Gainesville)

Dwight Call (GC&SU)

Veronique Barnes (Ga Perimeter)

Sheila Schulte (Ga Tech)

Angela Walker (Ga Southwestern)

Nancy Shumaker (Ga Southern)

Doug Podoll (Ga State)

Dan Paracka (Kennesaw)

Michelle Miller (Kennesaw)

Beverly Tarver (Medical College)

Liz Travis (Middle Georgia)

Ann Tallant (NGC&SU)

Sylvia Shortt (West Ga)

Mary Ann Kelly (UGA)

David Starling (Valdosta)

Charlotte Davis (Valdosta)

Sue Sugarman (Board of Regents)

Susan Leisure (Board of Regents)

## **Meeting called to order and Introduction of Members Present**

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes from the 8 March 2002 meeting.

### **University System of Georgia Update: Sue Sugarman**

- A list was shared of current campus websites for international offices at USG institutions. This list included international student and scholar services offices, study abroad offices, and internationally focused offices. The list was passed around the room for review and correction.

- The USG website has been updated regarding the USG Exchange Visitor Program (J program). The pdf form for requesting an exchange visitor can be downloaded, filled out, and returned to the USG international office. Find the form [online](#).
- A brief discussion was held regarding a two page memo that Rick Sutton shared at a USG joint meeting of Academic and Student Services Vice Presidents. The memo briefly reviews SEVIS, SEVIS deadlines, the SEVIS workshop at Georgia State on 26 June, and the intention of the USG international office to host a workshop on how to register with SEVIS in October. Sue will forward to everyone a copy of a comparison sheet she developed regarding current software packages available for international student and scholar forms and SEVIS compliance.

### **SEVIS Update: Sylvia Shortt**

- SEVIS version 1.0 being used by the pilot schools is being discarded when version 2.0 is available on 1 July. Recommended that since version 2.0 has not been beta tested, the USG schools not go into SEVIS until the pilot schools have had time to test the new system. The Exchange Visitor J program will not be available until some unknown time this fall.
- Recommend member institutions attend the SEVIS Implementation Seminar at Georgia State on 26 June. That seminar is for FSAs and not technical folks. The technical conference on 13 June was the one and only session the INS is providing for IT people.
- Sue Sugarman pointed out that the USG will NOT be purchasing software for institutions to be able to meet SEVIS requirements and that the USG was not in a position of recommend any software at this time.
- Mary Ann Kelly of UGA raised the issue of possibly initiating an international student fee across the USG to help cover the hardware, software, and personnel costs of complying with SEVIS. Some agreed; others argued that the cost should be borne by the university. An extended discussion followed covering the differences in costs from none at a small school that will be able to log directly into SEVIS to do documents for its less than twenty students to significant costs at the institutions with large populations.
- A critical issue to be pointed out to all involved that the cost of noncompliance far outweighs the cost of software necessary to do batch reporting.
- Recommended that the committee on International Students and Scholars plan to meet as often as monthly to stay on top of the SEVIS issues.

### **Collaborative Marketing/Recruitment: Nancy Shumaker**

- The group did receive a Global Partnership Grant from the USG to begin a recruitment program with an initial focus on Mexico, Brazil, Eastern Europe, and Asia. They will begin their recruitment efforts this fall. It is hoped that the funding cycle with the USG will be a three-year cycle.
- Susan Leisure of the USG international education office will be circulating a draft brochure of all of the USG institutions be sure to watch for the draft and give Susan the information she needs to complete the brochure for use by the collaborative group.

### **US Patriot Act: Dwight Call**

- A copy of a letter from Vice Chancellor Frank Butler was distributed. The USG has approved three of the four recommendations from our committee regarding standards for international education in the USG.
- Also distributed was a copy of an article from the Chronicle of Higher Education of 24 May 2002: Where Are the Standards for Foreign Student Advisors?
- Finally, a copy of USA Patriot Act: How to be Response Ready by Nicole Rivard was distributed.
- o Discussion followed with a recommendation that each campus should consider a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the issues. A NAFSA topic paper is available as background for such a meeting.
- Doug Podoll distributed copies of an ACLU brochure to suggest for distribution to all international students: Know Your Rights: What to Do If You're Stopped By The Police, The FBI, The INS, Or The Customs Service. The brochure can be found at [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).

### **Best Practices for International Scholars: Dwight Call**

- Information sheets were shared from Kennesaw State, Georgia Tech, and USG International Education Office regarding procedures for international scholars. Sheila Schulte will be distributing via email an updated version of the Georgia Tech sheet due to recent revisions.
- Doug Podoll opened a brief discussion of the need for USG institutions to be aware of the relationship Myron Kramer has with the USG as the Special Assistant Attorney General to the USG for immigration law issues. Inviting Mr. Kramer to a future meeting of the committee to explain his role may be of assistance.
- Susan Leisure and Sue Sugarman discussed a request for proposals that will soon be issued by USG for health insurance for international students and scholars within the system. Watch for further information.

### **B-1 Visitor Enrollment Issues: Mary Ann Kelly**

- New regulations from the INS, effective 12 April, state that an applicant for Change of status from B to F status may NOT enroll in classes until the COS is approved. UGA has had an incident where a faculty member offered to let a student "audit" a course pending receipt of the COS. This is a direct violation of the law that puts the institution at risk. A short discussion followed this is most likely to impact schools with graduate programs.

### **Advocacy Issues: Dan Paracka**

- Please monitor the NAFSA web page for latest updates in this area.

### **Next Meeting:**

- Members are encouraged to attend the SEVIS Implementation Seminar 26 June at Georgia State.
- 26 July is the summer GAIE meeting being held at Emory. Sheila Schulte will contact the group via email for a possible time to meet during the state meeting.
- NEXT MEETING DATE: Friday, 13 September 2002, 10 AM to 12 Noon at Macon State.

**Meeting Adjourned: 12 Noon**

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