

Committee on International Students and Scholars

USG Committee of International Students and Scholars Minutes of October 28, 2005 Meeting Macon State College

Meeting convened at 10 AM

Attendance

Present: David Adewuyi, Jeanette Luster, Gina Thurman, Jean Myers, Sherry Brinson, Saskia Eijssen, Aya Ogawa, Libby Davis, Charlene Graham, Todd Jones, Richard Beaubien, Doug Podoll, Sheila Schulte, Julio Espana, Liz Travis, Ann Tallant, Marisa Foreman, Mary Ann Kelley, Irina McClellan, G. Titi Oladunjoye, Caesar Perkowski, Sue Watson, Akanmu Adebayo (chair)

Welcome and Self-Introduction

Adebayo thanked Neal McCrillis for the minutes for the last meeting. Members introduced themselves.

Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Meeting

Adebayo asked to know the name of the member that volunteered to develop the questionnaire for eliciting information on visiting scholars to enable effective sharing of international scholar resources in the USG. Doug Podoll moved acceptance minutes of the last meeting as they stand and David Adewuyi seconded. The minutes were approved.

Old and New Business

Charge to the Committee, 2005-2006

Adebayo read the 2005-2006 Charge to the CISS Committee, which was issued by Dr. Rick Sutton, dated September 1, 2005. Richard Beaubien moved to accept, Titi Oladunjoye seconded. The charge to the committee was accepted.

Updates on Health Insurance.

Doug Podoll and Sue Watson informed the meeting that the USG Health Insurance Task Force has continued to press forward, despite strong opposition from this Committee. Doug stated that Mike Miller will respond to the comments in the letter from Adebayo to Rich Sutton. The driving force on the committee is the Chancellor's charge to provide mandatory insurance for three groups of students: graduate students, international students, students in certain programs. The underlying rationale at the Board of Regents is to make graduate studies in Georgia more attractive. Sue Watson reported that there is some lack of clarity in rationales at the Board level,

but nonetheless, it is fairly much a completed task. Doug then gave a recapitulation of point-by-point response to Adebayo's letter at the USG Health Insurance Task Force. Doug reported lengthy and heated debate on the impact of the proposal on international students. He summarized that the bid is moving forward, and international students remain in the mix. Responses are needed from the campus health centers and from the insurance companies before the bid can continue. Happily, study abroad insurance is not thrown in the mix; it is off the table, as there is already a contract with providers. Sue Watson adds that if the bid process fails, we need to have a plan "B". Richard Beaubien stated that there is a good chance the bid process will fail, and that plan "B" also might not be viable, so he will have a plan "C" on hand for GPC. Adebayo asked what steps would the USG take if the premiums are through the roof. Libby Davis asked what might be considered through the roof. The answer is about \$120 to \$150 monthly. Beaubien explained that if the plan passes and is unacceptable, GPC will actively assist students obtain hard waivers. The committee discussed Adebayo's proposal that every campus should make insurance coverage mandatory for their international students. Doug proposes that all but the "Big 3" (UGA, GSU, GATech) should think about bidding as a group and getting acceptable coverage-then the big 3 could get a plan on their own. Titi Oladunjoye made this discussion into a motion, seconded by Jim Anderson, and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: The Committee on International Students and Scholars recommends that all enrolled international students in the University System of Georgia in F and J status will have and maintain adequate health (sickness, accident, repatriation & evacuation) insurance.

Updates on BOR Policy Manual on Residency/Waivers

Sue Watson reported that the OIE and others are working on revising the policy manual to make it more concise and to anticipate many frequently-asked questions. However, in light of the current political climate, it is recommended that this revision be delayed until after tuition and fees have been determined. Sue will send a memo to the committee with an update once revisions to the manual are being considered.

Undocumented Students

Adebayo stated that this is becoming an issue at Kennesaw State University, and that the issue is about identity cards. Sue Watson reported that there are two pending lawsuits in Kansas and Texas about granting out-of-state waivers to undocumented students. The committee will monitor these issues and send updates. Adebayo also informed members that on November 4, at 7-9 PM in Science 109, KSU will host a panel discussion on this topic. Panelists are Chip Rogers and several Latino leaders. Adebayo will e-mail an invitation to the listserv. Sue Watson reminded members that undocumented student issues are on the Georgia legislative calendar next year. She asked members to send her "talking points" that can help determine or sharpen USG's position before and during the legislative sessions on undocumented students.

ESL Report

Richard Beaubien stated that this report is in the works, and should be ready by next meeting.

Global Partnerships and Best Practices

Adebayo called members' attention to the CFP that was circulated at the beginning of the meeting, and reminded members that the deadline is December 1. Information and application are available on the OIE website: http://www.usg.edu/international_ed/news/#4.

Collaboration and Sharing of Visiting Scholars and Resources

Adebayo reminded members that "collaboration" is the theme the SCIE. Rick Sutton's office is offering a number of mini-grants to support expenses in the sharing of visiting scholars and resources. A grant could be \$200 to a maximum of \$1000. Total fund available for this initiative is \$1,500. This money will go to the institution, not to the scholar. The committee needs to appoint a sub-committee to administer these mini-grants. Adebayo also circulated the draft of a form to be used in collecting information on visiting scholar. Information supplied by the scholar will then be put in a database. There was some discussion about whether the database should be password protected. Richard Beaubien agreed to put the database together. Discussion and debate ensued on how and if such a database would work. Beaubien stated that there needs to be a person to "own" and maintain this. Adebayo will find out if Rick's office will handle this.

Data on Retention, Progression and Graduation of International Students

Adebayo informed the meeting that one of the major initiatives of the BOR is "retention, progression and graduation". He stated that we suspect that international students are progressing as they should, and that they are graduating in six years or less. However, we need data to demonstrate this. He relayed Rick's call and asked schools to collect the data so that we can demonstrate the rate of retention, progression, and graduation of international students. He hinted that this may have something to do with funding of international initiatives. There was some discussion of what exactly the OIE wanted, what constitutes international students, and what kinds of data can be generated from Banner. Sue responded that member institutions should submit whatever data is available. Richard Beaubien stated that it is not currently possible to do this well. First, we need a definition of what "international student" is. Adebayo asked members to ask their institutional research people to see what data they could pull. We need five or six year data. Sue said she will send an email to the committee with specifications.

Workshops on International Students and Scholar Matters

Adebayo reminded members that NAFSA and GAIE conduct excellent workshops. He stated that these do not prevent the OIE from organizing workshops on specific issues. He asked members to let him or Sue know what the needs are so that workshops could be organized appropriately.

International Student Recruitment

Sue Watson passed around materials from Hobsons with our materials.

Date of Next Meeting

January 20th , 10:00 - 12 noon at Macon State College. Room TBA
Meeting Adjourned at 12:04 PM

Submitted by
Richard Beaubien

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