

USG Committee on International Students and Scholars
Minutes of April 20, 2007 Meeting
Macon State College

Meeting convened at 10:10 a.m.

Agenda Item #1 Self-Introduction (Attendance):

Akanmu Adebayo (KSU) aadebayo@kennesaw.edu

Sue Watson (USG/OIE) sue.watson@usg.edu

Julio España (KSU) jespana@kennesaw.edu

Dwight Call (GCSU) dwright.call@gcsu.edu

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Doug Podoll (GSU) dougpodoll@gsu.edu

Amy Nyland (CSU) nyland_amy@colstate.edu

Lisa Ayala (UGA) layala@uga.edu

Irina McCellan (VSU) ibmcclel@valdosta.edu

Liz Travis (MGC) ltravis@mgc.edu

Jeanette Luster (Atl Metro. College) jluster@atlm.edu

Beverly Y.M. Tarver (MCG) btarver@mcg.edu

Jason Rattliff (UGA) jasonr@uga.edu

Agenda Item #2 Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 10/27/06 and 02/02/2007 meetings were approved. They have been posted on the OIE website.

Agenda Item #3 Update on Insurance – what the negotiated policy means for our international students (Insurance Subcommittee)

Doug received information from Carolyn Pearce of Pearce and Pearce, Inc that there will now be three plans. For graduate students the premiums will increase 8%, the maximum out-of-pocket expenses will increase and the drug benefit will decrease. Otherwise it is mostly the same plan. A rider policy will be available for dependent children. The undergraduate premium will not change. There is no deductible, but there is a \$15 co-pay, and the coverage will change from 90/10 to 80/20 with some exceptions. This is particularly good for students on campuses without their own doctors. The lifetime maximum was decreased from half a million to \$150,000 per policy year which could be a negative for some. The voluntary policy decreased to \$50,000 per injury, and there is no out-of-pocket maximum. J-1 scholars can be covered under the graduate plan with a \$75 per month premium for the scholar and \$232 premium for spouses. Scholars will be able to be added at any time, but this must be done in the Administrative Lookup. Scholars will have to make up an ID which can be alpha. Checks must be received by Pearce & Pearce (P&P) within 10 days of the enrollment. It was suggested that international offices mail the premium checks for the scholars. Doug cautioned that the revised policy plans are still proposals and have not been signed off on by the BOR, so DOAS can still make changes.

Libby has put together a user manual for scholars which Sue will distribute. P&P is putting together a user manual which will be available in the Administrative Lookup. Doug distributed information with screen shots on waivers. OPT students can pay premiums either monthly or semesterly. Students should initiate continued coverage while they are still active. They have

only a 10-day grace period to renew unless the student calls P&P in which case they will be allowed up to 30 days. They will continue with the same premium as the mandatory policy. For students who are graduating, Carolyn might issue a refund if the school provides a graduation list and copies of a plane ticket. However, the refund may be so small that it isn't worth the effort once the student's home bank charges clearing fees.

It was suggested that the Committee and individual campuses send a commendation to the Chancellor and Student Health Advisory Committee to express appreciation for their exemplary work on negotiating the proposed student health insurance policies. There is still a lot of work to be done, but at least some time has been bought. Some of the justification for separating graduate students from undergraduate students in the insurance policies is that graduate claims represented \$2,100,000 in claims while undergraduate students only represented \$570,000 in claims.

Agenda Item #4 Update on Collaborative Training – Intercultural Communication (Sheila Schulte)

Sheila was not able to attend, but sent word that the train-the-trainer workshops are going well. Dwight reported that the participants are enthusiastic and things are going even better than expected. Each campus is to have 2 training events by September 30. A second NAFSA follow-on grant opportunity for up to \$10,000 is available for training senior staff in student affairs. Decisions should be made by the beginning of summer. Appreciation was expressed for the master trainers and their work and support of the NAFSA project.

Agenda Item #5 Update from BOR (Sue Watson)

Chancellor's Awards in the amount of \$9,000 are available for the Faculty Development Seminars to China, S. Korea, and Argentina. Descriptions and applications are to be posted by the end of April. Applications for the Harrington Award, which rewards cooperation between 2 or more USG campuses are now being accepted. The USG has been selected to participate in the Seven Revolutions Project, which was created by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The project includes the development of internet resources for students to enable them to become more globally minded. Faculty can use www.7revs.org to enhance their teaching resources. Senate Bill 529 (the Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act) is to go into law on July 1, 2007. The BOR is organizing listening sessions during May at various locations for students who are undocumented and the effect that this bill will have on them. Information will be posted at www.usg.edu/meetings. Higher education should be excluded from the law's compliance requirements since the bill includes a special provision that allows higher education to formulate its own policies regarding students who are undocumented.

Agenda Item #6 Issues facing international students and scholars in Georgia institutions today – and committee's recommendations for addressing them. For example:

- Matter of credit transfers for international students
- The undocumented hearings coming up in May and SB529 coming into law on July 1
- In light of recent events at VA Tech, how might we provide support/services to international students on our campuses?
- community-building (counseling)

- improving services for internationals (arrival orientations, campus rules, etc) and sharing best practices
- ways to get students to utilize campus resources
- driver's license issuance problems

The committee divided into 2 groups for discussion. One major suggestion was to schedule cross meetings between the various committees to discuss safety issues for internationals. Another was to ask the various USG committees (Committee on Student Affairs, Committee on Student Life, Committee on Records and Admissions, etc) what their issues were and ways that the CISS could assist them in working with international populations on their respective campuses.

Agenda Item #7 Training and other plans for next academic year

The chair asked the committee to consider what kind of training the committee should pursue in helping to train campus personnel who work with international students and scholars once the NAFSA collaborative training grant was exhausted.

Agenda Item #8 How have we done on our charge and what recommendations are there for improvement?

A handout was provided for each member present to rate each item on the charge.

Miscellaneous

Liz asked the committee's opinion on accepting international students into East Georgia College's new aviation program. The meeting adjourned at noon with the next meeting to be announced via E-mail.

Submitted by Tanya Grubbs