

BA-PIER Meeting  
Thursday, June 20, 2013  
Minutes taken by Dolly and Susan

UCSC Extension, Silicon Valley

Minutes by Interim Secretaries: Dolly/Susan Meeting opened at 1:10 pm

- I. Welcome by host Michael Mrache, UCSC Extension, Silicon Valley followed by Welcome by Dean, Lynda Rogers Acting Chair: Dolly
- II. Introductions were made by all present and new members acknowledged.
- III. Members were informed that the BA-PIER Listserve maintained by Ligia Morcillo at DVC had been down for several weeks and it was unknown when it would be functional. Marisa Thigpen of Sonoma State University volunteered to temporarily maintain the listserve. Dolly will relay this information to Ligia so she and Marisa can coordinate the transition.
- IV. Nominations for new officers effective September 1, 2013 thru August 30, 2015 were solicited from the group and previously nominated members were announced. With only one person nominated per position, the following were officially nominated by Dolly Balangitao and seconded by Tony Vigo with 0 naves from those present. The new officers are:  
Chair: Tracey Ward, Mission College  
Vice Chair: Michael Mrache, UCSC Extension, Silicon Valley  
Treasurer: Diane Johansen, UCSC Extension, Silicon Valley  
Co-Secretary: Supinda Sirhekaphong, Canada College  
Co-Secretary: John Babben, NDU Notre Dame de Namur University
- V. NAFSA St. Louis Conference Updates  
Tracey Ward's Reports from her notes
  - a. Tracey distributed copies of the latest I-94 Automation Fact Sheet from CBP. The electronic I-94 went into effect May 14 except for POEs in Canada and Mexico. If students are unable to obtain their e94 info on the CBP website or if there is an error on the page, they must schedule a deferred inspection appointment through InfoPass to have corrected. Those still holding paper I-94s must maintain it till departure. If lost, they must pay the I-102 fee to have replaced. If student issued an I-515, they will get a paper I-94.
  - b. Conditional admissions is still being debated especially as concerns issuing I-20s before proof of high school graduation has been submitted. However, it seems the section regarding conditional acceptance based on ESL first is a done deal: Students initially accepted for ESL before beginning their academic program should be issued an initial I-20 for ESL and a conditional letter of acceptance for the degree program. Combined together it is hoped the student will be able to obtain the F-1 visa. The draft for conditional admissions was too large to make copies to distribute but Tracey is happy to forward the link. Members may contact her @ Tracey.Ward@wvm.edu c. ELIS. The I-539 paper format will stay in effect. Officials advised only students or attorneys may make entries in ELIS because of liability issues. Students using the school's computer to enter their data must be careful not to have the school assist. Even uploaded documents scanned and maintained on the school's desktop is not allowed. If a student loses their password, they must start all over and pay again.

Report from NAFSA National Conference by Tracey Ward:

If someone has a paper i-94 before May 24th they need to keep it and if they lose it request a new one by the old method.

At land crossing, will have paper i-94 that will be put in electronically.

There's a debate about meeting all admissions requirements before issuing an i-20. It can be a difficult timing issue when they graduate in July from high school.

For IEP: Must issue i-20 for that, and then when a student transfers into academic program a new i-20 must be issued. Tracey indicated that she has a copy of the draft of the conditional admissions policy and she can scan it to us. There is no draft available on vacation policy. Her e-mail is tracey.ward@wdm.edu.

ELIS - No plan to completely do away with paper.

Lawyers said it was a liability problem if we scan documents for our students. We are supposed to sign-off, so if we scan student's documents we should sign-off on the application. This is what would create a liability issue for our school.

Miscellaneous stuff goes into "correspondence" area.

SEVIS II seems not to be close, however there is a webinar coming late July-early August.

Glitches: D/S has not been fixed. We need to tell student to leave it blank until it gets fixed.

SEVIS II - a date of 2015 was presented by the director of SEVIS. Right now they are working on enhancements for SEVIS I.

Government Session - Had a telecast screen. Send complaints and issues to them on "Issue Net."

Holding off because of regulation changes.

Suggest how they can make "Issue Net" better.

Visit "Study in the States" for helpful items.

i-17 update for single program change can be 4-8 weeks.

ADIS - Haven't interfaced i-94 with SEVIS at this stage. Still sitting around discussing it.

SEVP - At primary: F, M & J - won't look up, will look up SEVIS record at secondary.

Keep signatures updated to 6 months. Extensions recommended 30 days before program ends.

Authorized early withdrawals are treated as a priority now.

When SEVIS is sluggish or slow call SEVIS helpdesk. They want to know so they can fix it.

Data Fix - So much documentation is required. SEVP is trying to take SEVIS out of the process and standardize it.

Recertification for the i-17 is taking 3-8 months.

Webinar = Study in the States

Stem extension: Check in with them every 6 months.

Use no special characters, for example: tilde or hyphens. It causes problems on their end. If there is only one name, put it in the last name field.

Discussion:

Approvals for Change of Status - Some paper applications are processed in 2-4 weeks. ELIS change of status takes 2 1/2 months (10 weeks).

Tony Maharam: Often Saudi women need a close male relative with them when traveling. One member at the meeting saw a passport with an F-1 and F-2 from Saudi.

Agents: NACAC recommended not using stateside agents to recruit students. Have to have liability insurance of "x" amount in their foreign locations. AIRC is an accreditation for agents. Agents lie to students. Tell them to go to a certain school because that school pays them well. They charge fees to the school and to the student. Mostly large agencies are certified by AIRC.

Hot Courses: Tracey thought using them was a waste of money because the leads never have any money. Michael said they set up text, information and logos for a recruiting project. He only got one hit from them, so hits are random and not quality. Most want full scholarships.

Study USA - One member gets 30 emails a month and never got a student. Does translations with Google Translator. Carol from Mission College does not recommend Study in the USA. They are falling apart. Carol suggests spending ad money on trips. Nothing is better than building relationships and selling yourself.

Study California - Commerce Department, CSUs are on it. Member said that she hadn't done much on it yet. We had a presentation on it at a previous BA PIER meeting.

One member is looking for tracking program for inquiries, applications and admits. Sales Force provides free set-up. You can have 10 log ins maximum. Dashboards were mentioned.

Zinch, China - Not recommended by the group. Provides a social network site for Chinese students. Member, John, has received many hits from China but no students (been with them for one year). He even had a Chinese student worker to talk with inquirers and had no luck.

NAFSA Conferences, both regional and national, is in San Diego this year. We have new Northern District officers: Jake and Trish Reiff. Request for sessions is open for NAFSA Regional Conference.

Future BA PIER Meetings:

Thursday, Dec. 6 @ Mission College

Thursday, Feb. 20 @ JFK University

Thursday, June 19 (to be determined/recommend S.F. area) Meeting adjourned @ 3:00 pm.

Sincerely,

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