

BA-PIER Meeting by Kimberly Bryant, Hult International Business School

Thursday, December 1, 2011, 1:00-3:00pm

Held at: Mission College  
3000 Mission College Blvd  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
Meeting Room TAV-130

I. Welcome

- a. Welcome from Carol Qazi, Director of International Center – introduced team members at Mission College.
- b. Penny Johnson, Vice President of Student Support Services, welcomed everyone to the college.
- c. Lisa Harris – asked everyone to say their name and school, we went around the room, about 26 members were present
- d. Changes from last meeting: 3 meetings per year instead of every other month, Lisa Harris and Helen Salinas are co-chairs

II. NAFSA Northern District Conference and Regional Conferences in 2012

- a. Inna Zaltsmann, NAFSA Region XII Northern District Chair & Co-chair for Regional Conference in 2012, announced information about next year's regional conference
- b. Regional Conference 2012 – in San Jose at Hilton Downtown
  - \* Looking for volunteers, if interested contact Inna or Trish
  - \* Conference dates: Oct. 22-26
  - \* Facebook page for conference, they will send emails out soon when it's up, recommend to sign up or "friend" Facebook page
- c. Northern District announcements:
  - \* Northern District website is updated, looking for communications rep to work on website
  - \* Listserv for Northern District – go to website to sign up, people's information won't go anywhere, won't be shared with anyone else, will only be used to send announcements with important information about the District, conferences, etc...

### III. Study California Website

#### a. Guest: Gabriela Zelaya, International Trade Specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce

\* Gabriela introduced herself, she handles education sector for US Commercial Service, in over 100 cities in the U.S. and over 75 countries overseas, part of consulates (commercial service has 150 offices in 80 countries)

\* U.S. Commercial Service does many things: market research report, webinars, catalogue road show, virtual education fair, visiting education delegations, U.S. government education trade missions, support domestic and international education trade fairs, US commercial service business development, ThinkeducationUSA.com

\* New initiative: studycalifornia.us – schools in CA can sign up and promote themselves through this website (studycalifornia.org – another website, totally separate), there is one site for each state, good example: studynewyork.us – they form delegations, go overseas as a group, go abroad to promote studying in New York.

\* Benefits: One stop shop for international students overseas; link to site on U.S. embassy website; access to inquiries from website; “be” in their country when you can’t be in their country; 24/7 resource for prospective students, parents; map of where schools are located in the state, broken into regions with information about each region

\* Questions from the audience:

\* What is the price? \$495 per year per school to participate

\* Who decides what info goes on website about each school, the region, and the state? They’ll partner with visitor centers for more general info. For school-specific info, they will have a template for schools to fill out.

\* Will they have someone with experience in internationaleducation have input into the site? Yes, they want to have an executive committee.

\* Is there a way to track how much traffic goes through site? Yes, and schools will have access to this info.

\* Does \$495 include only site upkeep or advertising & marketing as well, so students know about it? They will work with their counterparts around the world, EducationUSA, schools have access to commercial service offices around the world.

\* What is the target timeline? Up and running ASAP, Gabriela’s in the midst of drafting the proposal, wants to get proposal out there this week and get schools to commit.

\* Showed studynewyork.us as an example of a site that’s up and running.

\* High schools as well as colleges and universities will be included.

### IV. Presentation of Highlights of the NAFSA Regional Conference

#### a. Panel Members

i. Dolly Balangitao, Chabot College

ii. Susan Sermenon, John F. Kennedy University

iii. Kimberly Bryant, Hult International Business School

## b. Session Summaries

### \* Drugs, DUI, & Other Crimes

\* The PowerPoint presentation for this session will be posted on the NAFSA website before the holidays.

\* Recommend reading the PowerPoint, it has a lot of information and is a great resource.

\* Panel included immigration attorneys, DSOs/advisors from Cal Tech and UCLA, and a representative from the Department of State Visa Office who is the Deputy Chief, Legal Advisory Opinions.

\* Topics discussed included: consequences of criminal conduct, concepts of inadmissibility and removability, basic criminal procedures after an arrest, consequences of failure to maintain status/overstay, DSO reporting requirements for criminal conduct

\* Common campus criminal offenses: Things like DUI, public intoxication, underage drinking.

\* Something surprising: violations of Digital Millennium Copyright Act – students illegally downloading music and movies

\* Under Obama administration, most removals per year ever – around 400,000. Just under 50% had no criminal convictions or activity, just immigration violations

\* If student isn't sure if they've been arrested, can ask them questions such as: have you had an encounter with the police? Been fingerprinted? Been taken to a police station?

\* Arrests must always be admitted in an immigration context, even if no conviction or record was expunged.

\* Miranda warning/Right to remain silent – students must tell officer their name and address, but can refuse to give place of birth

\* Carry immigration documents at all times

\* Consular notification – very important. Can google “consular notification” to see the text that police read to students

\* DSO responsibility to report – when disciplinary action is taken by the school against a student as the result of a conviction of a crime

\* Depends a lot on the institution and institutional policy

\* Work with general counsel to develop a policy

\* Advising students: make students aware of illegal conduct (may be different from their countries), know state and local laws that are pitfalls for students (DUI, MIP, drug laws, using a fake ID), talk about it at orientation

\* CBP with SFR Officers

\* A lot of questions were turned in before conference, chair collected questions, some questions on-site

\* Main topics of discussion were I-94s, I-515s, and different things that happen to students when they go through port of entry.

\* If there is an I-94 error – go to [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov), click “infopass” enter zip code 94111 for SF region to make appointment, the student goes to deferred inspection office and gets sent to appropriate office to get correction

\* I-515A – issued if person is coming in without valid I-20, first time student forgets something at POE, they might get a pass, after that, there might be a fine.

\* People were surprised to hear about the fine.

- \* Suggestion from CBP: tell students not to forget to take I-20s! Must be a common problem they see.

- \* Recommendation: When family members follow, dependents have copy of I-94 and I-20 of principal, makes it really clean when they enter

- \* When I-94 isn't turned in at departure – if this happens, student can use evidence that they travelled outside country (i.e. boarding pass, other evidence of activities in home country)

- \* If I-94 is lost – go to website, ask for replacement (I-102)

- \* Last minute departure and I-94 is lost, students can get a stamp in passport that shows they departed

- \* Coming back with OPT pending is ok for F-1, post-completion OPT but no job is also ok

- \* Terminated students can re-enter and get I-515, they have 3 days to show I-20

- \* Question from the audience: Do they enter arrival/departure info? That didn't get brought up at session, broadcast a while ago that said until Feb. we probably wouldn't be seeing arrival/departure info.

- \* Some audience members who attended the session felt that the officers were giving out out-of-date or inaccurate information at some points during the presentation.

- \* Recertification

- \* Update I-17s ahead of time, they are inundated with them right now because everyone's doing it.

- \* They reiterated: 6 months is absolute deadline

- \* If you are in process of updating I-17 and get recertification notice, there is an "update pending" statement you can send it to get I-17 update processed faster.

- \* At session, lots of questions re: instructional sites – to be considered an instructional site, school must own the site (more like satellite-type campuses), \$655 fee to add a site

- \* I-17 must be signed by ALL PDSO/DSOs

- \* Once it's submitted you either get notice of completion or notice of rejection (for filing) – says what's missing so you can resubmit

- \* PDSO and all DSOs will receive the notices

- o If RFE is received, the school has 15 days to reply – said they don't send them during Christmas holidays, but they have in the past.

- o Once it's filed, you will either get approval, rejection, or academic withdrawal (if you don't reply to RFE).

- o Recertification is valid for 2 years

- o They will send email to notify that it's time to recertify, but there's also an alert in SEVIS.

- o Change of ownership is \$1700, but recertification is free

- \* Many Agencies, One Voice- CSC, SEVP, etc...

- \* Panel included Lori Torres CSC, Candice SEVP Program Analyst

- \* Lori does employment-based petitions, Kurt for I-765s, phone number: 866 795-2421
- \* SEVIS terminated before H1-B is approved – not supposed to happen, it’s an interface issue, they know there’s something wrong with it and are trying to fix it
- \* If EAD card hasn’t arrived after 90 days – notify national center and cc John Baldwin from National Center. No email was given at session.
- \* Lockbox support address:  
[lockboxsupport@dhs.gov](mailto:lockboxsupport@dhs.gov)<<mailto:lockboxsupport@dhs.gov>> – also on website
- \* Expedite requests for EAD cards only given for these reasons: humanitarian, DHS errors, non-profit, severe financial loss, letter from U.S. government official
- \* New initiative: [Studyinthestates.gov](http://Studyinthestates.gov)
- \* With I-515s – DSOs sometimes get email alerts, sometimes don’t – only get email if POE inputs it into computer
- \* Pending adjudication of EAD – Panel said to bring copy of application when students travel; if EAD is approved, must have EAD card; if app is pending, bring copy of application
- \* Suggestion from Lisa Harris: same day you get on plane go to [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov), enter WAC# and if it still shows as pending, print that out and bring it with you to show CBP
- \* Common RFEs – financial documentation triggers it, provide financial statements for last 4 months
- \* Deferring start date for COS that is still pending– that is the only notification needed
- \* Errors on I-765s are happening because there are a lot of new adjudicators
- \* Email for Ana Reli, public relations: [ana.reli@dhs.gov](mailto:ana.reli@dhs.gov)<<mailto:ana.reli@dhs.gov>>
- \* People asked why FAQs on website different from what we hear at conferences, DSOs can email [sevp@dhs.gov](mailto:sevp@dhs.gov)<<mailto:sevp@dhs.gov>> and in subject line put: SEVP website information. Can explain discrepancies we’ve come across.
- \* Address change for a student during OPT processing – we can send email to CSC in addition to updating address in SEVIS
- \* Can a student open and run business in U.S.? Yes, they can be self-employed for OPT, ask usual questions: is it related to their study, etc...
- \* Can student be paid from outside country while student? Not able to answer that, they said it was a grey area
- \* Recommend to look at David Ware’s presentation from Friday morning – lots of little details depending on where work took place
- \* Can student work during reinstatement? Not sure, would have to be looked up on case by case basis – generally people say no (to be safe)
- \* Fee waiver – if you ask for fee waiver, don’t send a check, because it will get processed before the waiver gets to the officers, if waiver request is denied, they’ll send RFE for the money.
- \* Don’t need to terminate SEVIS record if student hasn’t found employment by 90 days
- \* Submitting reinstatement applications after 5 months – can it be done? Yes, but must have good documentation for why it was late.
- \* Must apply on time for OPT, even if I-515 or reinstatement is still pending.
- \* COS – start date is approval date for change of status, DHS sets the start date 30 days before the program start date on I-20/in SEVIS.

- \* B-1/B-2 or F-2 – no academic coursework until F-1 is approved, classes that would be ok are rec classes, vocational classes.
- \* USCIS Transformation
  - \* Will roll out on Dec. 16th
  - \* Changeover from paper info system to electronic system (ELIS)
  - \* Dec. 16th I-539 for change of status (B,F,J and M) and reinstatement, will be possible to file electronically for this – very similar to e-filing for I-765
  - \* Every 6 months, another form area is going to start being able to be e-filed
  - \* Only attorneys and accredited users (students themselves) will get logins, not DSOs, the student will still get WAC #, DSO should not log in and look at application/make changes because it creates a liability, don't accept if student offers to give you login
  - \* [www.uscis.gov/transformation](http://www.uscis.gov/transformation)<<http://www.uscis.gov/transformation>> - website for transformation, [public.engagement@dhs.gov](mailto:public.engagement@dhs.gov)<<mailto:public.engagement@dhs.gov>> – email for community relations officer
  - \* COS – scan and send I-20, student won't get an I-20 back, just receive an approval notice. Once COS is approved, DSO should print a continuing attendance I-20 and gives it to student.
  - \* Link to transformation presentation is on ICE website.

V. Lisa Harris thanked everyone for coming

VI. Next Meeting: February 16, 2012

- a. Las Positas College was offered as a possibility
- b. Let Helen Salinas or Lisa Harris know if your institution is willing to host it.