

BA PIER Meeting  
Thursday, December 7, 2017, 1:30pm-3:30pm  
De Anza College  
21250 Stevens Creek Boulevard  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
Conference A in Hinson Campus Center

### Agenda & Minutes

- I. **Welcome from Joseph Ng, Program Supervisor, PDSO International Student Programs at De Anza College (5 mins.)**
  - Announcements on bathrooms, parking, refreshments
- II. **Introducing new officers, welcome new members (10 mins.)**
  - Ryan Hisamoto, Chair, EC San Francisco, [RyanHisamoto@ecenglish.com](mailto:RyanHisamoto@ecenglish.com)
  - Daniel Heckmyer, Vice-Chair, EC Silicon Valley, [DanielHeckmyer@echigher.com](mailto:DanielHeckmyer@echigher.com)
  - Kristi Radke, Treasurer, Ohlone College, [KRadke@ohlone.edu](mailto:KRadke@ohlone.edu)
  - Becky Petrow, Secretary, Sonoma State University, [becky.petrow@sonoma.edu](mailto:becky.petrow@sonoma.edu)
  - Tracey Ward, Communications Officer, Mission College, [tracey.ward@wvm.edu](mailto:tracey.ward@wvm.edu)
  - Who is new? Folks share their name and institution
  - Move seats and sit next to someone new
- III. **Tracey presents the BA PIER Website, Member Registration Form and LinkedIn Group to membership; (15 mins.)**
  - By-laws, meeting agendas posted at least 1 months, minutes posted within a month, Maintain calendar of events (SEVP, USCIS), information about upcoming conferences, announcements from conferences and job listings, library resources (send suggestions to Tracey), sign up as a member using the member registration form to get on our mailing roster and how to join our linked in group. LinkedIn Intro – show of hands, about half are in the group already. Used to have an email listserv but lost the school host. LinkedIn is a free solution for a discussion group as most people are already LinkedIn Members. You can still join just to get access to the Bay Pier group. Membership confirmation page provides link to request access to Join LinkedIn Group. Closed group – what happens there stays there. Utilized primarily as a discussion board – share ideas, job announcements, get input from colleagues, etc.
- IV. **Membership will vote on proposed changes to by-laws (10 mins.)**
  - All changes approved on 2/3 vote!
- V. **Guest Speaker, Ron McPeak, SEVP Representative (20 mins.)**
  - Local to Vallejo/Napa/Richmond/San Diego. Used to work in Peralta admissions, started looking at SEVP in '06 before field rep position was available, made a 5-year plan for growth into a new position, tried for 2 years, long process before getting hired in '14.
  - SEVP Field Reps are here as a resource, meant to keep the pipeline of communication open, folks need help.
  - Phone numbers and emails are inconsistent with SEVIS – will show up to a campus and the DSO/PDSO won't be there.
  - Government shutdown will not affect SEVP because the department operates on the I-901 fee. It will be indirectly affected because, like anyone, they rely on their partners to run their program.
  - Field Representatives are employed by SEVP, but work for the people.

- SEVIS Portal is coming through the pipes. Pilot program is running 12/4- 2/2 with 11 schools (1 in CA, others in FL and NY). Harder for some schools to accept and adapt to a new processes (e.g. Stanford). Concern: are DSOs going to have to reset student's passwords? Natural disasters have SEVP Field Reps on alert.
- New EO: B's are suspended from Chad, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, North Korea, Venezuela, F and M and J's are unaffected (except NK).
- Russian Embassy – only Moscow open, others will open 12/11 for limited nonimmigrant visas. SEVP says students should call embassies on their own, DSOs have other work to do.
- Webinar tomorrow for upload functionality.
- Webinar on 14<sup>th</sup> on the pilot program (?).
- Field reps are concentrating on certain areas that affect their schools.
- NAFSA Slide Show – cannot display.
  - i. 4 more SEVP reps hired, 2 slots open (Missouri, NC)
  - ii. OPT reporting
  - iii. Tip line – whistleblower of administrative infractions, or fraud
  - iv. Webinars
- Q: Change of status apps taking long – USCIS issue. Cannot speak to that, can only point to their resources. I-765 is going to be 7 pages. Taking 8-10 months average. Want to see 3 months. RFEs with 20 bullet points. Now published on website that B visa statuses must be extended while COS is pending. Other visa statuses in practice are being held to the same standard and some types are aging out, J-1s cannot extend. SEVP's point of contact is just saying that they're doing what they can with the resources they have
- Some folks have stopped accepting change of status applicants. They have instituted a school policy that school will not issue B- to F change of status I-20s because of the delays with USCIS. Do not have the staffing and resources to process. Don't let bosses
- Q: H-1B cap gap extension OPT denials get a 60-day grace period from the day that they are denied. You cannot transfer during this 60-day grace period because the record is automatically cancelled. No comment from SEVP.

**VI. Table Networking (25 mins.)**

- What are the hot issues at your campus?
- What got you into the field of international education? What is special about your program/institution?

**VII. NAFSA Region XII October Conference Presentation from Candice Whitney, Registrar/Director of Admissions & Records at Gavilan College (30 mins.)**

- PDSO is tacked on to other responsibilities, institution has no DSOs, and maybe 2-3 international students at a time. Whether you have one international student or one thousand, you need to know the regulations.
- Almost got a "Straight A" student deported for not transferring a SEVIS record. You need to know the regulations even if you only have one or two students, or you can ruin their lives forever. Used to work at Golden Gate University for Arthur \_\_\_\_\_ who mentored her, told her to join NAFSA and learn the rules. Very excited to receive the scholarship and was able to leverage the opportunity with her boss to attend the beginner and intermediate level F-1 Advising Pre-Conference Workshops.
- Takeaways:
  - Developing policies and procedures on your campus pertaining to your international students. Concurrent enrollment, for example.

- On-campus employment: don't just say no. It's permitted!
- Sister cities can be a great resource to build international relationships.
- Interesting Programs: College of the Canyons received a grant to do an event called "Coffee around the World" talking about the economic impacts of coffee.
- Being a member of IIE is good. Community Colleges are encouraged to write and submit articles about their students.
- Changing status from B-1/B-2 to F-1: presenter refused to use the president's name, said "No. 45."
- Dependent visas: student aging out of H-2 visa, cos to F-1
- Finances: what documentation is appropriate to determine they have enough funds
- Can't refuse to release a SEVIS record if the student owes money
- DOS and Dept. of Commerce has a system to help schools recruit students from other countries. U.S. Commercial Services – local office from San Jose (get name from Tracey). Visit Ambassadors homes; visit Embassies and Consulates, etc. Also, do virtual recruiting fairs (\$600 or \$700, 5 or 6 schools). SRJC used this service to grow their international student population (EducationUSA)
- Immigrants and refugees: switched gears from students who have the means to travel to the U.S. and study here, to students who leave their countries often with very little documentation (Vietnam students only get one diploma and transcript)
- Southern New Hampshire University: large refugee population, doing a lot to educate folks here and abroad

**VIII. Wrap-up, other announcements, next meeting details, events coming up/reminders, job opportunities, etc.**

- Next year meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in February, who can host? Kaplan in SF or Berkeley agrees!
- Ava Fruin from CATESL Bay Area chapter: annual conferences, job opportunities, networking/professional development opportunities. Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Annual Winter Conference.

**Those who want to stay longer and continue networking can indicate by a show of hands and we will ask the host if the space is still available. (5 mins.)**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Program/Institution</b>
Becky Petrow	Sonoma State University
Kristi Radke	Ohlone College
Remi Harada	Notre Dame de Namur University
Noemi Teprang	De Anza College
Vanessa Orey	Cabrillo College
Ava Fruin	CATESOL
Michael Mrache	USCS Extension – Silicon Valley
Andrea Santa Cruz	De Anza College
Motoko Nakazawa-Hewitt	Cabrillo College
Rosanna Leung	College of San Mateo

Mio Matsuhisa	Holy Names University
Diane Johansen	UCSC
Mei Cooley	UC Hastings
Brandon Yanari	San Jose City College
Maria E. Fraser	Cal. College of Communications
Julie Leon Moreira	Cal State East Bay
Denica Kelly	De Anza College
RayMundo Porras	USCS Extension
Chrissy Kalivitis	Santa Clara University
Rerry Eppley	West Valley College
Doriann Tran	San Jose City College
Susanne Wilkins	Golden Gate Language Schools
Allison Largent	De Anza College
Tracey Ward	Mission College
Doreen Leoy	Golden Gate University
Liz Tyrrell	Evergreen Valley College
Tina Lingneg	Evergreen Valley College
Alla Mareureitek	EVC
Waranya [Ann] Sengsaman Mizuno	California College of Communications
Ginny Krasmasz	De Anza College
Quan Peng	De Anza College
Ines Cordoba Robyn	De Anza College
Kathy Harrington	USCS Extension
Huimin McKinlay	Mission College
Joseph Ng	De Anza College
Lisa Holsworth	Kaplan International – SF & Berkeley