

BA-Pier  
6/18/15 at Mills College

Tracey started the meeting at 1:10 and thanked everyone for coming and the Mills College hosts for providing our meeting space.

Introductions

NAFSA Conference:

- SEVP Session: USCIS is contacting students who have not paid their SEVIS fees. Somehow the consulates are processing the visas without the payments.
- SEVP session with Lou Ferrell. He took input from school officials.

General issues:

- There is a fraud/scam: Students have been randomly contacted via phone and email to pay \$4000.
  - Helpdesk: Issues with data fixes not completed in a timely manner. (Simple fixes are not being done over the phone any longer).
  - Long hold times for calls to the help desk to reset password (45 minute wait has incurred).
  - Lost SEVP Field rep for South Bay – no one knows what happened. Scheduled to be replaced in two months.
  - Enhancements to SEVIS Webinar: Biggest change: I-20 will have 3 name fields with different versions. Will include preferred name, passport name and an optional field.
  - F-2s can study part-time
  - H-4s applying for an EAD/ effect processing time for OPT. (H-4s with a spouse who has applied for adjustment of status can apply for an EAD).
  - Northeastern University Student Tutorial: Has put everything online as for applying for an EAD. The student does everything and the school issues the I-20.
  - I-765: Signature line is 75% smaller, so be award to pay special attention to the signatures when going over the I-765 packet with the student.
  - Change of status: Taking anywhere between 2.5 weeks to 6 months. ELIS goes to Vermont, but right now the form is down, so no ELIS. Paper or electronic does not seem to make a difference for processing time. Students need to wait -2 – 3 months before applying for change of status.
  - B1/B2 prospective student no longer –previously it was notated on the I-94 card or visa.
  - Reinstatement and change of status applications not available through ELIS at this time. ELIS applications go to Vermont for processing when the application is up.
-

- When date needs deferring for a post-completion OPT authorization (passes the 30 days for mail in) cancel the request and then create a new I-20 for the new OPT start date.
- When student's I-765 arrives too late to the service center, past the 30 day limit) a student can phone USCIS to claim hardship. They should use the customer service line for USCIS.
- Use travel redress – student getting sent to secondary but nothing wrong. Contact DHS at <http://www.dhs.gov/dhs-trip>
- DHS Trip: State Department is not issuing visas at the consulates. No one knows when the State Department will have the technical issued fixed for issuing visas. No news about what the problem is, but it is not as serious as last year.
- Hybrid programs? Coursework online, face-to-face requirements. Member is interested in creating a working group about hybrid programs standardization.

---

#### I-20 issues:

- Middle name used incorrectly on I-94s for Vietnamese students.
- Passport country on I-20 unknown.

#### Officers:

##### Confirmed nominees for next term:

- Michael Mrache, the current vice-chair was nominated for chair and confirmed.
- Alicia Haley nominated for Vice-chair and confirmed.
- Need a co-secretary and Kathy Harrington volunteered and confirmed.
- No volunteers for treasurer so Diane Johansen will continue as treasurer.
- Communications Chair (website and LinkedIn), Tracey Ward was nominated and confirmed.

#### Bylaws:

Need to review bylaws and vote on changes (changes must be updated). Tracey and Michael will form a committee to review the bylaws and put a revised copy on the website and LinkedIn for members to review. Susan volunteered for the committee.

- Clean up the membership list? There is no easy way to do it. 365 on membership list only 150 on LinkedIn.
- What to do with money was discussed? Inna proposed a professional development day put on by the NAFSA Northern District Team's committee. It was originally planned for the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting but it was postponed.

#### Announcements:

-Please send any documents that you get from conferences to Tracey to include in the resource library on our website.

-Deadline of July 13 is approaching to apply to be a Region XII Academy coach. Coaches start in August with training in DC in September. March is the academy conference. Regional and NAFSA teams pay for the DC and Atlanta training sessions. As volunteers, coaches must attend both the regional and annual conferences.

-No job announcements from the group today.