

## **BA-PIER Meeting**

Thursday, 2/21/19, 1:00pm-3:00pm

### **Mills College**

Room 1—Gathering Hall  
5000 MacArthur Boulevard  
Oakland, CA 94613

### **Agenda**

- I. Welcome from host, Chicora Martin, Mills College Admissions (5 minutes)**
- II. Welcome from Becky Petrow, BA-PIER, welcome new members, housekeeping (5 minutes)**
- III. Member Introductions (10 minutes)**
- IV. Roundtable Discussion (60 minutes)**
  - Updates in any gray area topics
  - Evidence of financial support requirement (bank statements) – what is standard practice?
    - Bank documents must be less than 6 months old at the time of application. If students defer their admission or re-apply for a future term, they should provide an updated bank statement.
    - Some schools will allow students to provide a local sponsor for housing and then can reduce the amount of finances required by the estimated cost of housing and/or meals. Some concern that consular officers may look negatively at this, assuming immigrant intent if they are going to be living with family in the U.S.
    - Students applying for Change of Status from J-1 to F-1 should not put their hosts as their housing sponsor or adjudicator will assume they will continue to work without authorization.
  - Summer Vacation – if a student starts in Spring semester (January), Summer semester is not his or her "vacation semester"? Does he or she has to take a full course in summer in order to earn a vacation semester?
    - Yes, everyone agrees that this is standard practice for academic programs on a semester system.
  - Online/hybrid programs that have face-to-face requirements – do schools issue I-20s? Do students apply for new visa each semester? What are best practices?
    - SSU has an example in the Global Wine MBA hybrid program. New I-20s are issued for each residency period of study in the U.S. and the student has to pay a new SEVIS fee for each ID number, but not re-apply for the F-1 visa if it hasn't expired.
  - Athletes admitted for Fall who need to tryout in Summer (and enroll in "tryout units") – how to handle?
    - Should be enrolled full-time in their first term of study. Can adjust the Program Start Date for athletes who need to arrive early for tryouts.
  - Students completing OPT and returning to same school to start new program at same level – okay?
    - Consensus is that this is fine. Students often complete multiple degrees at the same level but in a new field. Not eligible for post-completion OPT again at the same level.
  - Financial aid applications for study abroad programs – any knowledge?
    - Not much knowledge – can use Financial Aid if they're paying tuition to the home campus, not the host campus.
  - IEP Professional Activities – what do you think?
    - Lots of programs (e.g. Intrax) provide this as a "program" for their students – almost like an internship, in addition to a full course of ESL study. General opinion is that this is okay if the student's aren't getting paid and they're enrolled full-time.
    - Farmington in Michigan was an ICE sting operation to catch students misusing CPT.
  - Reinstatement – students should attend full-time while awaiting reinstatement.
  - RCL in final term – only permissible for students completing program (Associate's, Certificate), not meeting transfer requirements alone.

- V. **Other announcements, next meeting details, upcoming events, job opportunities, etc.** (10 minutes)
- Next BA-PIER meeting will be on Thursday, June 20th from 1:00-3:00pm in San Francisco. Host: TBD
  - NAFSA Region XII Northern California District Meeting will be on March 18th at UC Davis, early registration ends March 1st
  - BA-PIER Executive Board Elections in June (2-year term): <https://www.bapier.com/bylaws.htm>  
**Chair:** The Chair shall conduct the business portion of the PIER meetings; serve as a moderator and organizer and as a liaison with DHS, NAFSA and any other organizations; and preside over Executive Board meetings. The Chair shall prepare or oversee preparation of a written agenda and announcement for each scheduled PIER meeting. The Chair may appoint individuals to lead projects or activities for the organization, as directed by the membership. The Chair shall determine the place and time of each PIER meeting.  
**Vice Chair:** The Vice Chair shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair; assist the Chair with any necessary duties. The Vice Chair shall manage the PIER membership, including maintenance of the membership list, new memberships, distribution of an annual membership directory.  
**Secretary:** The Secretary(s) shall take minutes at each PIER and Executive Board meetings; provide minutes of the previous meeting for posting to the PIER website and maintain a record of official minutes.  
**Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall maintain financial transaction records; receive revenue and; present financial reports.  
**Communications Officer:** The Communications Officer shall maintain the PIER group on LinkedIn and the BA-Pier website.
  - IE Job openings:
    - Assistant Director position open at Mills College
    - Admissions position open at Sonoma State University