

## **CISS Meeting – January 29, 2021**

Participants: Blue Argo, Danielle Bacud, Robin Catmur-Smith, Janet Crane, Kathryn Gaylord-Miles, Pamela Harrold, Ashley Elizabeth Johnson, Ron Jones, Joline Keevy, Kathleen Kirk, Alexandria Lee, Peace Li, Katherine McClure, Mary Mears, Ivan Nikolov, Sara Nobles, Ryan Packard, Cheryl Park, Tanner Perfect, Jody Pritt, Brett Reichert, Tacoma Robinson, Tammy Rosner, Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran, Sheila Schulte, Allie Seay, Christine Shaw, Eric Spears, Steve Springer, Beverly Tarver, Laura Thompson, Jason Wynn

Steve Springer – Director Regulatory Practice Liaison at NAFSA

### **Change of Presidential Administration & Updates**

- Much more hopeful situation – positive changes – may not come quickly but may not be on top of the priority list, agencies to fix and reassemble, definitely know about our priorities, Members of Congress have been made aware, fixing USCIS, more flexible COVID allowance
- Prior Administration - NAFSA had zero input during Trump Administration but hope channels are reestablished
- Tracking Biden immigration changes and executive orders constantly
- SEVP unit to oversee OPT has been suspended
- SEVP – has not issued any new COVID guidance and not sure that they will
- Consulates – curious about when they can fully reopen – no updates
- Hoping travel restrictions will lift some
- Dept. of State funding issues with lack of Visa applications being processed
- WashTech case – challenge of OPT - seems to have been killed for now
- USCIS – fee increase still on hold – court injunction still honoring
- Advocacy Date coming up in April – Virtual with congressional offices
- Continue to post updates on NAFSA

Tammy Rosner will distribute Steve’s presentation to members. The presentation includes links to NAFSA resources.

### **Question & Answer from presentation:**

Exchange Visitor Program - Have we heard anything from any idea of what is happening on Subpart A? – Internal hurdles – have not been adversarial as the F1 side has been – have continued to work closely with NAFSA

Proposed D/S rule – all pending rules are being reviewed by new administration to see if they meet new administration needs – no liaison partners agreed with this rule – lawsuit would have been filed if this had moved forward

OPT Processing – 60 day grace period with still no receipt notice – when guidance can we provide? Lawsuit would be one avenue but a student would need to hire counsel and file a lawsuit. Ombudsman can assist but they have a huge volume of cases but are doing the best that they can. Contact a Congressional office for help so that they understand how non-functioning USICS is – have heard good response from this avenue

CDC Guidance on International Travel – most recent proclamation by Biden administration – required to follow CDC recommendations or requirements? Stay at home for 7 days as well as COVID testing. Very confusing and we are not aware of a clear federal requirement of a quarantine and no enforcement. Administration intends to issue some enforcement but nothing has come out. Airline contract? Air India saying if you get deported you will have to pay for the return ticket – just a general airline agreement to protect them from the cost of someone being removed.

DSO's responsibility for excessive unemployment time for OPT – need for DSO's to terminate SEVIS records of students exceeding – additional information for Auto-Termination? No updates from SEVP regarding this – wait and see – will happen one of these days but not sure when

Alternative course offerings with COVID continuing – number 1 or 2 recommendation for DHS and Dept. of State – need more flexible and specific guidance – guidance is out of date and needs updated to reflect more varied course offerings – longer term changes to regulations

### **Updates from:**

Ashley Elizabeth Johnson – Regulatory Ombudsman for Student Issues, Region VII - subscribe to the Region Newsletter with bi-weekly updates – reach out for assistance – working on USCIS cases – best practices for offices

Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran – Past Chair, KCISSS – ramping up for 2022 – call for session proposals and what type of content to offer – please reach out & share any ideas – looks at how we respond to regulations practices and policies – sign up for these professional resources: ISTA, ISCA, CCP through NAFSA link:

[Home - NAFSA: Association of International Educators](#)

### **Open position nominations filled:**

#### **Vice Chair**

Allie Seay – GA State

#### **Member at Large**

Kate Kirk – GA Tech

Concerns on Health Insurance but ran out of time to discuss – send any questions or issues to Kathryn.

### **USG Updates:**

Tammy – no updates – SHIP committee meets in February will have updates after that

Meeting adjourned – 12:01