

# Committee on International Students and Scholars

**13 September 2002**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon**  
**Room 103, K Building**  
**Macon State College**

Albany State: David Adewuyi  
Armstrong Atlantic: Laura Logue  
Atlanta Metropolitan: Cora Mencer  
Clayton College: Jean Myers  
Columbus State: Neal McCrillis, Carlos Romero, Yuliya Komarova  
Floyd College: Lynn Bacon for Virginia Carson  
Georgia College: Libby Davis  
Georgia Tech: Sheila Shulte  
Georgia Southern: Nancy Shumaker  
Georgia State: Doug Podoll  
Kennesaw State: Carmen Diaz  
Medical College: Beverly Tarver  
North Georgia: Ann Talant  
Southern Polytechnic: Charlotte Janis  
USG: Susan Leisure  
USG: Sue Sugarman  
Valdosta State: Charlotte Davis  
West Georgia: Sylvia Shortt

Meeting called to order by Libby Davis and Introduction of Members Present: 10:05 AM

Approval of Minutes of meeting of 21 June 2002

## **USG update: Sue Sugarman**

### **SEVIS Workshops**

Two SEVIS workshops have been scheduled for schools not already registered with SEVIS. There is no need to attend both sessions--pick the one that best fits your calendar and travel schedule. Sue Sugarman is leading these presentations. Contact Sue for more details: [sue.sugarman@usg.edu](mailto:sue.sugarman@usg.edu).

- 11 October at Albany State
- 18 October Macon State followed by committee meeting
- Both sessions are scheduled for 10 AM - 3 PM with lunch provided

## **Accident and Illness Insurance**

The USG International Office has completed a lengthy bid process to identify an insurance carrier for health (accident and sickness) insurance policies that can be used by any institution within the USG. The plans have been approved and will be presented to the USG Committee on International Education for approval. Once approved, details will be shared with all USG institutions. Some advance details are:

- Study Abroad: \$30 month with a possible coverage period as short as two weeks
- Foreign Students: \$43.50 month with limited exclusions
- Fs and Js, students and scholars, dependents as well
- Faculty and staff policy as supplemental coverage for repatriation and medical evacuation

The HTH Worldwide Insurance Company is sponsoring a scholarship competition for students. First prize is \$2,000. More information can be found at: [www.hthstudents.com](http://www.hthstudents.com).

Fulbright opportunities to participate in faculty/staff visits to Germany, Japan, and Korea. See Sheila Shulte or Jennifer Lund for information on their previous participation

The USG International Education office has developed an International Student Handbook that schools are free to use as is or edit in any way that will be useful to their students. The handbook is available from Sue Sugarman or Susan Leisure.

Dekalb County and other governmental agencies are beginning to recognize ID cards issued to undocumented aliens from Mexico and Guatemala. The identification documents are called Matricula Consular. Refer your undocumented students to their respective Consuls for further assistance.

### **Immigration Update: Libby Davis**

NAFSA has posted some new Practice Advisories on its web page for member use: [http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge\\_community\\_network.sec](http://www.nafsa.org/knowledge_community_network.sec)

- Social Security number application change now in use--letter now required
- Requirement for all aliens--immigrant and nonimmigrant-- to report change of address on INS Form AR-11 ([www.ins.gov](http://www.ins.gov)).
- ISEAS (Interim Student and Exchange [Visitor] Authentication System)--became effective 11 September, which was the same day that schools were notified. Students and scholars must be in the system to get a visa. For the first 30 days, email may substitute for the ISEAS database.

Email NAFSA if you have problems with any of these: [govrel@nafsa.org](mailto:govrel@nafsa.org).

### **Collaborative Marketing/Recruitment, Nancy Shumaker**

The committee met two weeks ago to begin setting a schedule of recruiting trips and finalizing budgets. The tentative schedule for recruitment is: Mexico (Oct), Central Europe (Budapest, Vienna, Prague) (Oct), Brazil (Nov),

and Asia (Thailand/Singapore) (Dec). The USG brochures that will be distributed at the recruitment fairs are being completed.

### **SEVIS Update, Sylvia Shortt**

SEVIS still has many bugs and INS is talking about a major bug fix when they update the system for batch system late Sept/early Oct. Some of the problems are in the following processes:

- Deferred attendance
- Change of level
- Terminate for no reason
- Help desk is frustrating--they can not answer questions
- When bugs are fixed, no notice is given to users of SEVIS

Summary: the system still does not work any better than it did on 1 July.

A hearing will be taking place next Wednesday, 18 September, at the U.S. House of Representatives. Sylvia Shortt's testimony will be part of a presentation by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Duke's Catherine Cotton will also testify. You can find that testimony at the following website: [www.aascu.org](http://www.aascu.org).

Here are some reminders regarding how I-20s are prepared and handled under the SEVIS system. Under SEVIS, the I-20 is a three-page form with no student copy. When a student enters the US, the inspecting officer takes the entire I-20 and forwards it to London, KY. It is then returned to the school. Each time a student does an employment request, a new I-20 is generated by SEVIS with the employment data.

The INS has announced that for a school to be fully registered by the INS in SEVIS by the 30 January 2003 deadline, they must submit their registration information by 15 November. Schools registering at this late schedule must also be prepared to pay the SEVIS fee at the time of registration (\$580 as these notes are being written). A school should anticipate long delays from the time they register for SEVIS to the time they are approved and issued their password to begin using SEVIS.

USG's International Education office is recommending all system schools be on by 1 November--thus their workshops mentioned above.

Banner has a new set of forms for SEVIS compliance that is now in the hands USG, but not sure when the update will be distributed to system schools.

Batch availability from INS still unknown as this meeting is taking place.

One policy area that SEVIS directly impacts is curricular practical training and how it is used with cooperative education. SEVIS does not allow for registration within SEVIS if a student is not enrolled. So if your school does not give academic credit for Coop, then you may not be able to award full-time coop to foreign students.

## **Other Issues:**

### **Accommodating late arriving students**

The question was asked what accommodations, if any, are schools making for folks delayed by visa or other security issues? GA Tech held housing and classes for foreign students through the end of late registration--but no longer. West Georgia had some success with faxes to NATO member nations for students with some problems.

Schools were reminded to advise all students to carry transcripts (official or unofficial) with them as they travel as the best documentation that they are doing what they are supposed to be doing--attending school full time.

### **INS mailing problems**

Doug Podoll, Georgia State, brought up a problem that has been recognized at Georgia State and at Emory. When the INS folds an I-20 into a window envelope for mailing back to the school from London, KY, or other INS offices, the address format on the I-20 is incorrect. This leads US Postal Service machine readers to automatically return the envelope to sender. Georgia State recently had over sixty envelopes forwarded to them from the INS. Watch for more news on this issue over time.

### **Next meeting**

Friday, 18 October, Macon State, following the SEVIS presentation. The meeting should begin somewhere between 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40 AM

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