

USG Committee on International Students and Scholars
Minutes of October 27th, 2006 Meeting
Macon State College

Meeting convened at 10:05 a.m.

Attendance:

Akanmu Adebayo (KSU) aadebayo@kennesaw.edu
David Adewuyi (Albany State) david.adewuyi@asurams.edu
Lisa Ayala (UGA) layala@uga.edu
Libby Davis (GCSU) libby.davis@gcsu.edu
Tanya Grubbs (GA Southern) tgrubbs@georgiasouthern.edu
Ulf Kirchdorfer (Darton College) ulf.kirchdorfer@darton.edu
Tammy Lyskowinski (UGA) tammyl@uga.edu
Ravindra Malik (ASU) ravindra.malik@asurams.edu
Jean Myers (Clayton State) jeanmyers@clayton.edu
Aya Ogawa (Darton College) aya.ogawa@darton.edu
Caesar Perkowski (EGC) perkowski@ega.edu
Sheila Schulte (GA Tech) sheila.schulte@oie.gatech.edu
Joan Stalcup (GA Southern) jstalcup@georgiasouthern.edu
Ann Tallant (NGCSU) atallant@ngcsu.edu
Beverly Y.M.Tarver (MCG) btarver@mcg.edu
Doug Podoll (GSU) dougpodoll@gsu.edu
Sue Watson (USG OIE) sue.watson@usg.edu
Jason Wynn (GCSU) jason.wynn@gcsu.edu

Agenda item #2 Approval of last meeting's minutes

A few corrections were made to the previous meetings minutes before approval. The spelling of Jason Wynn's and Carolyn Pearce's name was corrected. There was also a correction made to the minutes in regard to the different policies used in determining residency at each campus. The statement should now read: "...while it is not against BOR policy for campuses to have different residency determination procedures, consistency from campus to campus is required." The minutes were then approved.

Agenda item #3 News from BOR- Sue Watson

The Interim Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs is the one overseeing the insurance matters for international students. He is the President of West Georgia, and is holding the position of vice chancellor as an interim, but his term as interim is indefinite for now. Sue Watson reviewed the changes in the insurance policy and procedure from the previous meeting.

There is a new grant for support of institutions who want to internationalize their campus. The grant is for \$50,000 to be awarded in January of 2007. The applications will be reviewed from November 11 until December 15th. The deadline for proposals will be Friday November 10th, and the information is available at the BOR web site.

Agenda item #4 News and upcoming events/programs across the campuses

Sheila Schulte is compiling a list of International Education Week events happening at different campuses in the state and will be posting the list on the web site. Deadline for submissions was October 27th. NAFSA sent requests for Governor Purdue to proclaim IEW officially for the state. The request went in to him on Monday, October 23rd.

Statesboro will have its IEW festival with the community. It is collaboration between Georgia Southern and the city and county officials.

Meeting attendees shared their ideas for IEW celebrations for others present to learn about.

Agenda item #5 NAFSA Collaborative Training grant- Sheila Schulte

The idea for the grant was born from the committee. The USG was awarded a NAFSA's Collaborative Training Grant, and grant activities will take place between October 2006 - September 2007. Sheila Schulte from Georgia Tech is grant administrator. The grant is for \$14,971 and it is for the purpose of training campus personnel in intercultural communication. There is a Master Trainer sub group, and they are coming together to make a manual in October, November and January. The manual will be printed in February and the training sessions will be held in March, specific dates to be determined. There will be three meetings- one in Atlanta, one in Macon and one in Valdosta. There will be a train the trainer session, which will consist of various exercises, solicitation of feedback, and ideas on how to make training work on each individual campus. The people who attend the train-the-trainer workshop must implement at least 2 programs on their campuses during the grant cycle. There has been added emphasis placed on intercultural training designed specifically for Arabic-speakers. The purpose of the train-the-trainer workshop is to get two people from each of the 35 institutions in the system to participate. Each campus will determine the selection process to identify the 2 campus trainers, but anyone can apply. The selectees will receive reimbursement for mileage, a manual, and a book on intercultural communication.

The Master trainers are:

Dwight Call- GCSU
Chaudron Grille- Gainesville State College
Amy Henry- Georgia Tech
Heather Housley- GSU
Leigh Poole- UGA
Sheila Schulte- Georgia Tech
Aya Ogawa- Darton College

Beverly Tarver suggested sending out a message on the USG OIE listserv, as well as the GAIE and other listservs available.

Agenda item #6-Other training/workshops in 2006-2006

Doug Podoll will be heading the Residency training sessions that were discussed in the previous meeting.

After the previous meeting, it was decided that there was a need for more information on Social Security and Drivers License issues. We should look into training and new possibilities and ideas.

Tammy Lyskowsinski will get the ball rolling as chair elect of GAIE to have representatives of the Social Security Administration and Drivers Licenses Services to come and speak at our next conference. The next GAIE winter conference will be a bi-state in conjunction with the Tennessee Association of International Education and will be held in Chattanooga from February 28 to March 3rd.

Agenda item #7 Mini-grants for collaboration on sharing visiting scholars

Nothing new was said or added from the previous meeting.

Agenda item #8 NAFSA Region VII

Doug Podoll gave an update on the state of the regional conference to be held in Charlotte. There was still room in many of the PDPs being offered. We will have an excellent plenary with Dr. Tim Tyson. Sheila Schulte reminded us that the Region VII NAFSA conference for 2007 will be held in Atlanta and as state representative to the region she will need help from all those on the committee. She requested volunteers to sit at the table in the exhibit hall at the conference for the Atlanta conference.

Agenda item #9 Health Insurance (Insurance Sub-Committee)

a. Updates

CISS recommended Adebayo write a letter to the Chancellor expressing our discontent with Pearce & Pearce, bringing to his attention his intention in the past to renegotiate the plan for the International Students. The letter was drafted and sent.

Pearce & Pearce hosted a workshop/meeting in Florence. Based on Aya Ogawa's initiative our committee was invited to attend in its entirety, when it was originally slated just for campus representatives and members of the insurance committee of the BOR.

Sue Watson informed the committee of the Chancellor's response to our letter. He basically wants the renegotiation to happen but does not want to be involved in it. He asked Adebayo and Tonya Lam, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, to get together to make something work. He is aware that we do not want our international students subsidizing health insurance for the American students.

Richard Beaubien and Dwight Call are now both on the insurance committee of the BOR. They will be joining Doug Podoll who was previously the only representative from this committee for the international community.

There was an hour set aside at the Florence meeting for international issues. The issues were presented, and we received some good results. Sue Watson had compiled a list of complaints to share at the meeting.

The insurance sub-committee for the CISS has been working hard on these issues. Tonya Lam wants a list of campuses that used HTH and other providers in the past as well as a list of the benefits that the students have lost as result of the change in policies. Doug Podoll listed some of the issues that are prevalent for our students, such as having to meet a deductible, the 80%/20% coverage versus the previous 100%, the way the new system affects our short-term scholars and exchange students, etc. He also suggested we try to send Tonya hard evidence of problems that students bring to us, not just some anecdotal evidence.

The BOR has shown an interest in moving towards mandatory insurance for all students in the Georgia System, and has expressed that we will soon have a "system solution" to this problem.

b. Next steps

We need to all work on getting some hard evidence we can share with the BOR. The next step is really to watch what the BOR does next. Whose decision is it to allow another RFP? We have to wait for their next step and our next step will be to react appropriately. We must continue to monitor what happens. Send all complaints and evidence to Sue Watson.

The charge for the new sub-committee for insurance is to continue the pressure. We must try to get an undergraduate international student on the committee so they can have a voice.

Things we want to see change in the insurance policy for the 2007-2008 academic year are:

- Go back to no deductible
- Return to the 100% coverage instead of the 80/20 we currently have
- Allow exchange students to purchase insurance for only Spring instead of Spring and Summer
- Allow scholars to start their policy during the month they enter (which usually does not coincide with the semester) and also to purchase insurance on a monthly basis

Sue Watson gave us a brief history of how we got to this point in insurance for those who have not been a part of this process from the beginning.

Agenda item #10 Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 2nd, 2007 at 10 am. Adebayo will send out the location and time and date as usual on the listserv.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm