

## Committee on International Students and Scholars (CISS)

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Minutes

Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA. | 12:30pm, Rm. 237

**Chair:** Brett Reichert, University of West Georgia

**Vice Chair:** Jason Wynn, Georgia College and State University

**Member at Large:** Veronique Barnes, Georgia State University - Perimeter College (absent)

**Member at Large:** Janet Crane, Columbus State University

In attendance: 12

Columbus State University – Janet Crane

Georgia College & State University – Jason Wynn

Georgia Gwinnett College – Alexa Lee

Georgia Institute of Technology – Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran

Georgia Southern University – Tanya Brakhage & Audrey Faulkner

Georgia Southwestern State University – John Fox

Georgia State University – Drew Webster

Kennesaw State University – Katheryn Gaylord Miles

University of Georgia – Robin Catmur

Valdosta State University – Danielle Bacud

University System of Georgia – Tammy Rosner

**CALL TO ORDER, 12:37PM - Brett Reichert**

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

- Brett Reichert called for a motion to approve from the floor. The Minutes were approved at 12:57.

### 1. USG Update – Tammy Rosner

- a. Designated Campus Representatives Needed – We will be defining our membership. We would like institutions to appoint SAP committee rep (to vote) and CISS committee rep (to vote).
- b. SHIP RFP – SHIP has moved out of student affairs, and moved to Human Resources at the BOR. Any questions or inquiries can be emailed to [SHIP@usg.edu](mailto:SHIP@usg.edu). Tammy Rosner's understanding is that they will go out for an RFP. There will be an international committee working with the RFP. They will look for a big package for SHIP to offer a service for international students and scholars. GA Tech has been asked to come into the fold. This is intended to be finalized in April, 2019.
- c. Sprintax
- d. Data Snapshot – Tammy will hand out a sheet showing this data. Percentages may not match because of the overall enrollments in the USG (percentages use the overall number of students in the USG in the system).

Questions: Admissions question from Jason. Tammy Rosner said the USG Academic and Student Affairs Handbook is concentrating on policy. The BOR and Legal are working to take out non-policy guidance and

put that into the Student Affairs handbook. After that time, we will look get into the freshman international; FI and transfer international; TI codes. Each will now have its own section.

Questions: Tina Roussel – Questions about ISS helping the economy. NAFSA is doing outreach. A lot of good stories are out there. Would this be a good place to work as a state to tell these stories (outside of revenue)?

Answer: Tammy says she share specific stories with USG Communications for consideration. It's up to the discretion of Communications to publish. Email Tammy if you have stories to share.

## **2. Nominations for CISS officers - to take effect Fall 2019 meeting**

At next meeting in September, Brett will be finishing his 3 year position as the chair. We will need people to fill positions: 1. Chair 2. Member-at-large.

Brett is opening the floor for nominations. If we don't have any nominations today for these slots, we can conduct nominations via email. We need a spectrum of leadership from different types of schools. Right now we do not have anyone from a research institution.

Motion made to defer nominations to email process (Brett + GA Tech). Tina seconds the motion.

Brett will email the motion with descriptions of roles to be filled via email.

## **3. Discontinuation of USCIS service center email boxes as of Jan. 21, 2019**

\*These service centers will discontinue

- California Service Center: [csc-ncsc-followup@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:csc-ncsc-followup@uscis.dhs.gov)
- Vermont Service Center: [vsc.ncscfollowup@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:vsc.ncscfollowup@uscis.dhs.gov)
- Nebraska Service Center: [NSCFollowup.NCSC@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:NSCFollowup.NCSC@uscis.dhs.gov)
- Potomac Service Center: [psc.ncscfollowup@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:psc.ncscfollowup@uscis.dhs.gov)
- Texas Service Center: [tsc.ncscfollowup@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:tsc.ncscfollowup@uscis.dhs.gov)

## **4. Upcoming Conferences**

- a. GAIE, Savannah, GA, Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2019 (Still time to register) Drew said that Sunapsis and Terra Dotta will both be there.
- b. GILC, Covington, GA, Feb. 22 – 24, 2019 <http://www.georgiaffacamp.org/>  
CANCELLED THIS YEAR due to sudden change in leadership. Will take place next academic year.
- c. NAFSA, Washington DC, May 26 – 31, 2019

## **5. Other issues / job announcements / Next Meeting**

- Brett. SEVP is essential and they are reachable. Websites/SEVIS has been crashing or unusable since the shutdown (Robin).
- Brett: EducationUSA centers (some are affected, and others are not). If on grounds of U.S. embassy – not open. If operating off those grounds, should be open.

- Robin will talk to USCIS rep (meeting) to talk about top issues. Robin will talk to them about any problems.
- Robin – trend this year. USCIS adjudicators are questioning Dept. of Labor.
- Question: Tina - are deferred inspection staff doing corrections? Rep from Valdosta State says that staff at deferred inspection had been considered non-essential.
- Response: Tammy – Student with I 515 A – history/record sometimes auto-updates.

## **BRETT – PROJECTS WE HAD BEEN WORKING ON FOR SOME TIME:**

### **a. Transition guide (for small offices)**

Both people working on it moved out of system. Tina (GA TECH) will ask her team if they would be willing to work on this. People in her office are eager to work on projects for the state.

### **b. Cost of Living, Best Practices**

This is currently in draft form.

### **c. Pay to Study – Brett asked the committee if anyone is using this service.**

Brett explained that it is like Flywire. Robin is using Flyire. Tammy says that to her knowledge there is no policy in place disallowing the use of the new / either services.

### **d. Campus Transportation, ATL Airport**

Brett asked the group how smaller, more remote schools handle transportation from the airport to campus for orientation.

Answers:

**GA Southern** – Students come in through Savannah airport. The office organizes Graduate Assistants/Staff to go to the airport and pick them up over 3 days based on demand. The office has their own vans. However, they have rented university vans too.

**Columbus State:** Orientation fee pays for **Groome** to fetch and take them to their residences. Janet Crane books everything for them.

**GA College:** Jason Wynn explained that one shuttle picks students up during a specified time the day before orientation. Students are expected to meet at the airport at the time. The pickup fee is \$50.

**UGA:** Students take Groome from Atlanta airport at their own expense and coordination.

**Valdosta:** A regional airport exists near campus. The office picks up students in vans there. Also, a church group will volunteer basic to pass things out to them.

**GSW:** The English Language Program has a van and the program covers the cost. Mr. Fox explained that it is a grassroots effort coordinating flights, etc.

**UWG:** LYFT offers a Business/Institution to get a discount code for LYFT. Student can request code and you set whatever subsidy you can provide. (VANDERBUILT pays for all of the cost of all of their students riding LYFT). Otherwise UWG coordinates 2-3 shuttles it pays for through campus transportation. Free to int'l students.

**Suggestion from floor:** Student Government can put together shuttles.

**e. Foreign Address for Transcript Request**

Requests for edits to better accommodate international addresses.

Tammy will explain to the BOR the issue of not having international address fields in Banner, on the Registrar's website, etc. to help ensure that all campuses are able to send requested transcripts to international students. Jason suggested having students send in a paper form to the registrar to request that transcripts be mailed to the students. *UPDATE- most USG campuses use a third party to issue transcripts. If your school is having issues accepting foreign addresses this likely means they are not using a third party. Please email to let me know if your school has this issue and we can do a specific training for the school to fix this.*

**f. ANY OTHER ISSUES / Announcements**

Terra Dotta user conference in Atlanta this year.

NAFSA Advocacy day this year

IIE Summit

IIE OPEN DOORS REPORTING CENSUS will come soon.

- Brett will be meeting with Rotary next week. If we have questions, Brett will ask on our behalf.

[breicher@westga.edu](mailto:breicher@westga.edu) – Brett's new email.

Meeting adjourned 2:47 pm