

# Committee on International Students and Scholars

**October 19, 2001**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Faculty Conference Room #151**

**Student Life Center**

## **Members Present:**

James Anderson (Armstrong)

Cora Mencer (AMC)

Sheila Schulte (Ga Tech)

Nancy Gratton (Ga Perm)

Nancy Shumaker (Ga Southern)

Doug Podoll (GSU)

Dan Paracka (KSU)

Liz Travis (MGC)

Ann Tallant (NGC&SU)

Charlotte Janis (SPSU)

Sylvia Shortt (West Ga)

Leigh Poole (UGA)

Sue Sugarman (Board of Regents)

Libby Davis (GC&SU)

Dwight Call (GC&SU)

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was passed approving the minutes from the July 20, 2001 meeting.

## **System Update:** Sue Sugarman

Sue provided several handouts:

- A list of organizations that provide scholarships for international students
- A list of countries and the native/official languages spoken (helpful when processing int'l admissions)
- Various recruitment possibilities:
  - Info about Planet Edu (a new, free search directory to international education possibilities), where Georgia institutions could be posted.
  - Tips to make your institutions' web sites pop up faster in searches.
  - Info about College Fairs International.
  - Info about different web sites where institutions could be listed (University Study in the U.S.A., Georgia Colleges & Universities, various ESL sites, etc.).

## **Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC)**

Leigh Poole, the chair of this coming year's GILC, provided information about the conference and handed out

registration materials. The conference will be held on the weekend of January 25-27, 2002 at the campus of Georgia Southwestern University in Americus. Approximately 200 international students and U.S. study abroad students from around the state of Georgia will convene in Americus for the weekend for leadership training, team building activities, social events and much more! The registration fee is \$40 per person and the registration deadline is November 16 (Nov. 9 is the deadline for students to submit applications to their advisers). Information about the conference and applications can be downloaded from the GILC web site at [http://www.uga.edu/international\\_ed/gaie/gilc](http://www.uga.edu/international_ed/gaie/gilc)

### **Out-of-State Tuition Waivers**

Dwight passed out the March 1999 memo from James Muyskens clarifying the fact that System institutions can award partial waivers as long as the cumulative number of waivers awarded does not exceed the 2% allotment. Question was raised if waivers lead to lost revenue for institutions. Several members made the point that waivers actually help with revenue because many students receiving the waivers would not be attending the institutions at all if they did not receive the waiver (and thus loss of in-state tuition, room and board revenues, etc.). Providing waivers leads to increased enrollment, which in turn helps institutions get more money.

### **CISS List Serve**

The Committee listserv (Intl\_Students@list.gcsu.edu) is available for discussions. Questions or problems with the list serve should be sent to Dwight Call. Remember that attachments cannot be sent to the list.

### **Continuing the Search for Best Practices**

Dwight distributed revised results of the survey on international students, and the Committee continued to discuss possibilities for recommending best practices for the University System.

The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the System Council for International Education endorse as best practices for the 34 institutions within the University System the guidelines recommended by both NAFSA (<http://www.nafsa.org/content/InsideNAFSA/EthicsandStandards/PrinciplesScholarServices.htm>) and the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (<http://www.cas.edu/>). Questions were raised if simply endorsing the guidelines would have any effect. Recommendations were made to suggest that after endorsement, Board of Regents staff notify all institutions' presidents and vice-presidents about the guidelines and post the guidelines at the BOR web site. Several members mentioned the importance of having the requirements/recommendations come from the BOR and expressed frustration that they were not able to make any changes on their campuses. The suggestion was also made that Committee members could be proactive and go ahead and alert their presidents and vice presidents that these recommendations were discussed. Such action is particularly vital in the post-September 11 climate.

Committee members discussed the need for institutions to have a mandatory insurance policy. A suggestion was made to have one central plan for System schools, so individual institutions would not have to negotiate their own contracts. The point was raised that it would be easier for students who transferred within the System if all

schools were on the same plan (eliminating pre-existing conditions, etc.).

A motion was made and passed to forward the following recommendations to the System Council:

- Every institution should follow the NAFSA and CAS guidelines
- Every institution should have at least one person who is the designated person responsible for international students & scholars. It is essential that staff receive the proper training and knowledge in the various aspects of international education: INS regulations, admissions, tax requirements, etc.
- Every institution require international students to have adequate health insurance (but different schools can implement different policies to meet the needs of their student populations).

Dwight will draft a letter and send to the CISS list serve for feedback.

Suggestions for the letter:

- Be brief with key bullets highlighting the most important points
- Quote INS and IRS regulations. Make the point that institutions are "accountable" for services that they provide.
- Include the fact that the fed gov't might soon have a congressional mandate to check on schools and that we might lose the possibility of having students if we do not follow the regulations
- Stress the importance of international education and how internationals enrich our campuses; if we don't provide necessary services, we will lose international students
- Mention the Kennedy Bill

The final letter will be sent to Rick Sutton, asking him to forward the letter to the System Council list serve to expedite the process (otherwise the System Council's next meeting is not until next year sometime). The Committee will ask for the System Council to endorse the guidelines and to forward those recommendations to Chief Academic Officers.

Out-of-State Waiver recommendations? As for making any recommendations to the System Council, several members thought it might be a good idea to wait to deal with waiver issues. Doug Podoll mentioned that the Residency Manual at the System level is currently being rewritten (in which waivers are mentioned) and that we should wait to see the outcome before moving forward.

### **Collaborative Marketing / Recruitment**

Members agreed that it would be cost-effective and helpful to have recruitment at the System Level; however, they realize that money is an issue. The question was raised that if institutions came up with a collaborative plan, would there be any money to implement it? A suggestion was raised for the Committee to create a proposal and submit it as a Global Partnership Grant (April 1 is the next submission date). Nancy Schumaker and others will work on this.

### **Other suggestions:**

- At System Level, try to liaison with Admissions officers
- Faculty attending USG Faculty Development Seminars could help with recruitment by handing out materials, making arrangements ahead of time to meet with OSEAS advisers and attend recruitment fairs, etc.
- IIE: <http://marketing.iienetwork.org/> - Resources for marketing your program, links, discussion boards, etc.

### **The Current International Crisis**

All members present shared with the Committee what has been happening on their campuses as a result of September 11. While there were some incidents of harassment reported, overall members were pleasantly surprised that they had not had major problems on their campuses. Members agreed that it will be important to share information about visa denials, etc., in the coming months.

### **Current Advocacy Possibilities: Dan Paracka**

Dan Paracka suggested colleagues go to the NAFSA Advocacy page (<http://www.nafsa.org/Template.cfm?Section=PublicPolicy&NavMenuID=50>) for pointers and to start talking to appropriate people on their campuses to establish contact with congressional offices. Sheila Schulte has recently become a member of the NAFSA Pilot Press Network and has established contact with the international editor of the Atlanta Journal & Constitution. There has already been one article about the impact of international education and the editor plans to write another article about what different campuses are doing for International Education Week.

### **Next Meeting:**

- Friday, January 18, 10 am - 12 noon, Room K-106 in the Learning Support Center, Macon State
- Agenda Items:
  - Out-of-state waivers
  - Collaborative Recruitment (Global Partnership Grant)
  - International Scholar issues

### **Meeting Adjourned**

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