

**Committee on International Students and Scholars
February 8, 2008 Minutes
Macon State College**

Meeting convened at 10:20 a.m.

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Agenda Item #1: Self Introduction

Agenda Item #2: Identify Volunteer to take notes and write up minutes

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Eric Sun motioned for the approval of last meeting's minutes. Adam Johnson seconded. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: BOR Updates: Sue Watson

A) Tuition Classification Workshop

The state of Georgia had an audit of residency application procedures and issued findings. They revamped the tuition classification manual for campus tuition classification officers and the chancellor mandated that training workshops be held on tuition classification. The workshops are for those working in enrollment services, admissions and anyone else that may be dealing with tuition classification issues. Legal affairs experts and others will be available for a panel discussion. A fee will be charged and more information will be forthcoming by email. The workshops will be held on the following dates:

March 14th (Macon State University)
April 4th (Savannah State University)
April 11th (Kennesaw State University)

B) Internationalizing the Campus Grant

Last year North Georgia College and Georgia College & State University received monies from the Board of Regents for a new Internationalizing the Campus grant. No decision has been made as of yet for this year's grant and the BOR is hoping to return to the state legislature to ask for more funding for this grant in future years.

C) Follow-up on International Summit

The USG International Education summit was held in October at the Carter Center. Dr. Dorothy Leland, who is spearheading the revision of the state-wide core curriculum initiative, was one of the speakers, as was the Chancellor and individuals from the New York Times education division and the Center for International and Strategic Studies. This summit feeds into the global competencies and internationalizing the core efforts. More information is available about the summit at www.usg.edu/oie/summit and core revisions information can be found at www.strongfoundations.usg.edu.

D) Matters from the SCIE Meeting

The Georgia Tech International Plan was presented, along with a discussion about how to assess Global Competencies.

E) Updates on Insurance

The conclusion is that undergraduate international students should not be lumped in with graduate students, athletes, and others on the Pearce & Pearce plan. The conclusion stems from data received that supports this claim. The 2006 – 2007 data is available for all students, including athletes, graduate students, and international students. Libby and Sue had different figures, but both proved that the plan is unfair for international students.

The HR director at the BOR has experience in negotiation and has met with Pearce & Pearce to determine next year's premium rates. The proposed rates for the 2008-2009 year are the current \$830 per year for undergraduates and \$946 for graduates. This rate is better than an expected 8% market increase. The increase for graduate students would be approximately 5.7%. It was agreed that this is a small victory for international undergraduate students, but not so much of one for international graduate students.

Some suggestions were made concerning international student insurance: 1) make sure students at your institution are enrolled in the correct plan; 2) forward any anecdotal evidence of problems with Pearce and Pearce to Sue Watson at the Board of Regents.

Additional information on the plan would include the fact that after the three-year contract with Pearce and Pearce has expired, we will be able to rebid. Libby Davis also explained that she had forwarded problems to Tonya Lam, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and now we have Carolyn Pearce's direct cell phone number in case the company itself is unresponsive.

F) "Return on Investment" study on impact of international students

The Marketing and Recruiting Network at NAFSA's Recruitment, Admissions and Preparation Knowledge Community has been given the responsibility of measuring Return on Investment in international student recruitment. The very simple results show that the costs associated with recruitment are less than the overall returns. More information on this topic can be found at <http://www.USJournal.com/en/educators/erecruit/07/ie.ppt>

G) GA 411 Applications

The GA 411 on-line application is not user friendly for international students. Sue suggested this might be an issue for the admission subcommittee to look at.

Agenda Item #5: Updates from World Regional Councils/OIE Committees

The Asia Council completed a faculty development seminar to South Korea and China last summer and is working on a Faculty Development Seminar in Thailand for summer 2009. The council is also working on the development of an Asian Studies Certificate, as well as a more formal policy on study abroad. Currently there are four study abroad programs endorsed by this council:

1. China Program (general studies)– Dalton State
2. China Program (intensive language) – Kennesaw State
3. Japan Program – Georgia Perimeter College
4. India Program – Georgia Perimeter College

No other committee or council reports were submitted.

Agenda item # 6: Subcommittee Reports

1. International Student Admissions Subcommittee (Jean Myers)

This committee has been charged with investigating the consistency of admission and transfer credit practices throughout USG institutions. There is no real standard for the transfer of core curriculum courses, nor for other classes. What may be transferable at one school would not be transferable at another. Subcommittee is still investigating consistency practices and will meet at the GAIE conference. Sue Watson suggested that we investigate whether IELTS would be acceptable for English Language Proficiency requirements across the University System of Georgia

2. Insurance Subcommittee (Libby Davis)

A new insurance subcommittee was formed this year which includes four staff/faculty members who work in International Education (Dwight Call, Sylvia Shortt, Ravi Malik, and Richard Beaubien), in addition to 2 international students (GT graduate student Evren Ozkaya and GCSU undergraduate student Rishwa Patel). The subcommittee had two meetings in the fall. A Georgia Tech graduate student on the committee analyzed the data provided by Pearce and Pearce. Data indicated that insurance payments from international students have been more than three times as profitable as payments from domestic students-\$452 in profit per international undergraduate student in the plan versus \$145 per domestic student. Libby Davis also noted that not all students who were required to be in the plan paid into the plan (e.g. undergraduate nursing students). This practice was labeled as unfair to those who were forced to participate.

Agenda Item #7: The Proposed House Bill 770

This bill is being sponsored by Rep. Day. The proposed bill prohibits admission of non-immigrant foreign students who are members of terrorist organizations or from terrorist countries into postsecondary school receiving state funds. The bill also proposes that Georgia universities would have fifteen days to report the status of each non-immigrant admitted to the GA. Bureau of Investigation. It would be replicating information already available to the Bureau through SEVIS.

Agenda Item #8: Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be April 18th. There was some discussion about possibly starting the meeting at a later time, as some individuals expressed concern over the difficulty in arriving in Macon by 10 am. There will also be a training on crisis management at the next meeting. Information to be sent via email.

Agenda Item #9: Social Security Administration Training (Sheila Schulte) and Driver's License/REAL ID issues

Sheila discussed the application process, the SAVE database, and changes that occurred regarding CPT and OPT that will have an impact on students who need to acquire Social Security numbers. She talked about the importance of working with your local social security office and emphasized the importance of meeting regularly with the district manager of your local office. Handouts were distributed relating to Social Security Administration policy and procedures. If copies of the training handouts are needed, please contact Sheila Schulte.

Lisa Ayala gave an update on driver's license issues in Georgia. The REAL ID Act is federal legislation, and so NAFSA will be advocating about it at the federal level, but each state will determine when to implement the changes, so local advocacy is needed as well. Lisa has been working with Mike Mitchell, the Director of Regulatory Compliance at the Department of Driver's Services, about the new requirement that international students and scholars will have to

renew their driver's licenses every year as a result of the REAL ID Act. Lisa highlighted some of the current problems that internationals are experiencing regarding driver's licenses: H-1B's who extend are not able to get a renewal license unless they pay for premium processing; F-1's and J-1's are denied renewals of their licenses because their visas are expired; and Change of Status individuals are experiencing all kinds of problems as well. Lisa indicated that any problems with driver services centers should be directed to Donna Garnto (dgarnto@dds.ga.gov). Lisa stressed that it is important for campuses to designate an institutional representative to handle driver's license issues, just as we do for social security administration problems, and to keep her apprised of problems that internationals are experiencing. Lisa will continue to work on these problems on behalf of GAIE and the USG.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 12:05

Minutes Submitted by Jason Wynn