

## CISS Agenda & Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2022 | 11:00am

**Chair:** Kathryn Gaylord-Miles, Kennesaw State University

**Vice Chair:** Allie Seay, Georgia State University

**Member at Large:** Dr. Ray Smith, Dalton State College

**Member at Large:** Kathleen Kirk, Georgia Tech

**Participants:** Allie Seay, Kathleen Kirk, Brennan Gonzalez, Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran, Mike Oswald, Kathryn Gaylord-Miles, Ashley Johnson, Jody Pritt, LD Newman, David Huffman, Christine Shaw, Cheryl Park, Paul Sargent, Robin Catmur, Ryan Packard, Nneka Osakwe, Alexandrite Lee, Tammy Rosner

**Call to Order & Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** – Kathryn Gaylord-Miles

[September 24, 2021](#), meeting minutes were approved without objection.

**USG OIE Update** – Tammy Rosner, Director on International Education

New Leadership: Dr. Denley is no longer with the USG. Dr. Stuart Rayfield, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer is now in-place. No major changes or new programs are expected as we still have an Interim Chancellor and Interim Academic Officer.

Approved Tests for English Proficiency Update: The approved list of acceptable tests used to determine English proficiency is updated on the USG website. Also, ESL program review is underway and institutional responses are due to Tammy Rosner by Feb 4. Reminder: Institutions are expected to accept all USG approved ESL tests for undergraduate admissions, so as not to exclude potential applicants.

Campus Christite Health: Christie Health will be offering an informational session. Invitations to this session (specifically for ISSS and Study Abroad offices) to come.

Waiver of SAT/ACT Tests: A question was posed to expand on why the USG is not continuing to waive the SAT and ACT tests for admitting international students, as the requirement is deterring applicants. Tammy indicated this question comes up a bit, but decision-makers are not currently interested in considering the possibility of waiving those test requirements at this time.

New Vision for IE in GA: Dr. Stewart has asked for submission of a new vision for international education in GA. A demographic cliff for undergraduate admissions is coming and Tammy is advocating we can fill the gap with international students. Any CISS input is welcome. Anyone interested in talking about this more, contact Tammy. This proposal would present an opportunity to position us as a more welcoming and friendly system for international students.

Questions surrounding this proposal: How do we ensure our advocacy will be successful? And will resources be in place for us to ensure student success? Tammy stated the first step is submitting the “ideal”, then if ultimately approved – a funding plan will be made.

Request to Share: A desire to have a standardized list of which countries institutions consider primarily English speaking, for admission purposes was voiced. In absence of USG policy on this, it was recommended to create a shared, internal Google Doc that would allow schools to share (if they wish).

Two New Board of Regents Members: Tammy will provide contact information once she has it.

## **Committee Business – Kathryn Gaylord-Miles**

Bylaw Update: Motion to “allow [for] election of CISS leadership at the spring meeting or electronically within 15 days after the spring meeting” passes without objection.

Elections (Chair & Member at Large): Nominations for Chair and Member at Large positions were opened to the floor. Potential nomination made by Robin Catmur. Nominations and electronic vote will be sent via the CISS listserv.

## **Open Discussion**

### How was fall 2021?

Robin Catmur stated UGA graduate student numbers bounced backed (just above) 2019 level. Visiting international scholar numbers are down. Faculty and Permanent Residency numbers never wavered. Graduate School and Undergraduate Admissions are not terribly optimistic about the current admissions cycle. Graduate applications are lower and Undergrad Admissions is happy to stay flat. Not anticipating a large increase for fall 2022. UGA Exchange Student numbers increased and hopeful it will continue to increase. ESL program is down - reflecting the national trend.

Tina Rousselot de Saint Ceran of Georgia Tech expected 2,300 arrivals for fall 2021 and came close to that target at around 2,100. Spring numbers were normal. Scholar numbers are lower but climbing. There is concern surrounding students delaying graduation. With a large graduation number, ISSS offices can expect lots of student request processing.

Jody Pritt of Georgia State University stated fall 201 numbers were up, potentially due to deferrals. Spring intake was smaller than anticipated. Scholar numbers growing slowly. On a positive note, GSU welcomed 6 Afghan Parolees to their ESL program.

Kathryn Gaylord-Miles of Kennesaw State University stated a significant growth in international student numbers. This growth is attributed to their new recruitment partnerships. The institution is growing quickly.

LD Newman of Augusta University chatted their experience at AU with graduate, scholars and employee/green card cases has been almost exactly as UGA except they did not see any increase in undergraduate numbers.

Kathleen Kirk chatted Georgia Tech's exchange student numbers are growing towards pre-pandemic, particularly with one of their special programs which restarted this semester.

Visa Appointment Challenges: Visa appointments are still a challenge. Academic departments and students are requesting ISSS update program start dates. In some instances, the Department of State is requesting the school to amend the program start date – and some will comply.

Athletes and Athletics regarding NIL Regulations: Robin Catmur mentioned this. UGA maintains advising from the current regulations until they are updated. Saying it's not wise and should speak with an immigration attorney. The SEVP lag on this is frustrating many institutions and students.

Increased Insurance Cost for International Athletes: Issue with increased insurance charge. Clayton State may have to scale back international recruitment because of this increased cost.

### **Announcements**

NAFSA National Conference 2022 New Format: The conference will be held in Denver, Colorado. There are in-person and virtual attendance options.

GAIE/SCAIE Joint Conference: It will be a virtual joint conference. Link to registration to be emailed 01/28.

Kennesaw State University Open Positions: Three positions to fill. Two are student facing positions and 1 is scholar facing. Links to these positions can be found on their website.

**Meeting Adjourned at Noon**