

Committee on International Students and Scholars

Friday, October 18, 2002

Macon State College, Foundation Board Room

Armstrong Atlantic: Laurel Logue, Jill Bell-Marriott

Atlanta Metropolitan: Cora Mencer, Jeanette Luster

Clayton College: Jean Myers

Columbus State: Yuliya Komarova

Gainesville College: Laura Lee Bernstein

Georgia College: Dwight Call, Libby Davis

Georgia Perimeter: Richard Beaubien

Georgia Southern: Nancy Shumaker

Georgia Southwestern: Angela Walker

Georgia State: Doug Podoll

Gordon College: Janet Barras

Kennesaw State: Carmen Diaz

Medical College: Beverly Tarver

Mercer University: Marissa Monty

Middle Georgia : Liz Travis

Savannah State: Gwendolyn Moore

USG: Sue Sugarman

Valdosta State: Charlotte Davis

West Georgia: Sylvia Shortt

Introduction & Welcome - Dwight Call

USG Insurance

Three representatives from HTH Insurance gave a presentation on the accident and sickness health insurance plan worked out by the USG Office of International Education. This plan is available to any USG school for their international students and scholars.

Premium Rates Per Month:

\$43.50 Per Participant

\$130.00 Per Spouse

\$65.00 Per Child (\$130 for 2 or more children)

Plan Benefits:

Medical Coverage: Up to \$1,000,000 lifetime max, \$500,000 per year per episode

Covered Medical Expenses: Paid at 100%

Prescription Drugs: 80% up to policy maximum

Medical Evacuation: \$100,000

Repatriation of Remains: \$30,000

Accidental Death & dismemberment: \$10,000/\$5,000 spouse / \$1,000 child

Co-payments: \$15 Office visit / \$50 Hospital visit

Deductible: None

- Incidents involving alcohol are covered
- 6 month pre-existing condition clause (HTH will count time covered under another program toward the 6-month period)
- Can enroll up to 60 days after start of semester
- Web-based system - can enroll, submit and check claims on-line
- Schools can print out insurance ID cards at their institution (greatly shortening the process)
- HTH Representatives available to come to campuses, want input on their services
- For study abroad programs, HTH can arrange for physicians in-country to conduct a health-care orientation for study abroad students (provide specific health care info for that country)
- No quotas on the number of students that need to be enrolled
- Schools can decide if they want to collect the money from students and send it to HTH, or if students should pay directly to HTH

Several committee members had questions and HTH representatives responded:

- The plan uses a PPO network (Beech Street, Multiplan, and Health Partners). Some schools in smaller towns expressed concern over whether their students could find in-network doctors nearby. HTH explained it could work with schools to find network doctors and if none are available, will allow participants to use out-of-network doctors for in-network coverage.
- HTH will reach out to try and contract with doctors from a variety of ethnic backgrounds to meet the needs of the diverse participant population.
- Repatriation & Med Evac Clause offered on individual basis for scholars (\$3.75/month)
- Scholars can participate in this plan no matter their age
- Mammograms and Pap Smears are covered, but not routine physicals
- No pre-certification required to go to the emergency room
- This plan is intended for international students and scholars on F and J visas. It is not intended for undocumented students (for those students, there are other plans). For individuals in other visa statuses, HTH can discuss the options available.

SEVIS Update

Committee members discussed various issues regarding how institutions are preparing for SEVIS. Members are encouraged to read several new NAFSA practice advisories at www.nafsa.org/sevis. Many members expressed concern that their institutions don't understand the importance of SEVIS and the resources needed to meet the reporting requirements. Members stressed the importance of presenting a report (in writing) to their administrations that explained the impact of SEVIS. Several suggestions come out of the discussion:

- Include facts and figures (show how much \$ your institution makes from international students).

- Emphasize that resources are not just needed initially, but long-term to support the reporting requirements.
- Explain that your institution must undergo a site visit to be recertified, not just now but every two years. The INS could take away your school's ability to enroll international students.
- Explain the need to comply with federal law (helpful to compare to financial aid federal mandate 5 years ago).
- Use formula/chart like in the NAFSA practice advisory (compute the amount of time and money required)

The question was raised if it was worth applying for recertification, and members felt it has to be an institutional decision whether or not to continue enrolling international students. Perhaps diversity goals might be met in other ways (permanent residents, etc.). Certainly institutions need to have the support for international students in order to continue enrolling them.

Possibilities for support software systems:

Ga State and the State Univ of West Georgia have decided to go with i1440 software (www.i1440.com). Doug Podoll will demonstrate the software at the next CISS meeting. Richard Beaubien (Ga Perimeter) has developed his own software (Magister Software, www.magistersoft.com) and can make arrangements to come to your campus to demonstrate.

Next meeting:

Friday, December 6

10 am - 12 noon

Macon State College

K Bldg, Room 106

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