

Committee on International Students and Scholars

USG Committee of International Students and Scholars Minutes of September 16, 2005 Meeting Macon State College

Attendance: David Adewuyi, Laurel Logue, Jean Myers, Neal McCrillis, Katie Thornton, Aya Ogawa, Heather Page, Libby Davis, Richard Beaubien, Joan Stalcup, Todd Jones, Sabrina Stewart, Doug Podoll, Liz Travis, Ann Tallant, Marisa Foreman, Mary Ann Kelly, Sue Watson, Irina McClellan, Bryan Shealer, Ivan Nikolov, Akanmu Adebayo (chair)

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 . Dr. Adebayo welcomed everyone and asked members to confirm their contact information and attendance. He asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Meeting

Doug Podoll moved acceptance of the previous minutes and Marissa seconded. The minutes were approved.

Office of International Education (OIE) and USG Updates

Sue Watson thanked Dr. Nancy Shumaker for her services and thanked Adebayo for agreeing to chair the CISS. She then provided a USG update including the Chancellor search, OIE staff changes and the recent retreat of USG committee chairs. Sue also mentioned the VPAA's international seminar and grant applications being submitted by OIE such as a Fulbright teacher's exchange and a FIPSE grant.

Charge to the Committee, 2004-2005

Adebayo distributed the 2004-2005 charge to the CISS and asked members to review the committee's work last year. The general view was that the charge was ambitious. Neal mentioned that it was the first time the CISS had been given a charge and was therefore a step forward. Marissa said it was helpful to have such specific goals. Each charge was reviewed one by one.

Build active participatory membership : The consensus was that the CISS had built "an active participatory membership of campus professionals" although some institutions were not sending representatives.

Monitor and assess annual GILC : All regarded the Georgia International Leadership Conference (GILC) as very successful although it would be desirable to include more institutions and more returned study abroad students. Sue stated that there should be an annual report to the OIE since the GILC receives BOR support. The next GILC will be February 24-26 at Rock Eagle.

Monitor "homeland security" issues : Members recognized the importance of advocating for international

students and scholars' liberties which might be affected by "homeland security" issues. The issue is still vital given the renewal of the Patriotic Act and a recent ruling in Columbus that [SOA-Watch] protesters should be strip-searched. On the other hand those present believe the charge should be re-worded to make the objective clearer.

Submit inventory and final report of review of ESL : Adebayo stated the CISS had completed its ESL data collection but had not written a report.

Other Charges : The remaining four charges were reviewed quickly because of time constraints. Lack of knowledge among those in attendance might suggest more institutions should send regular participants. To encourage broader and more regular membership, Adebayo announced there is \$1,500 from the OIE to defray travel costs for members who lack institutional funding.

Old Business

ESL Survey

Adebayo returned to the 2004-2005 charge for an ESL survey. He asked for those who had worked on the project to volunteer to draft a report. Joan Stalcup (Georgia Southern), Richard Beaubien (GPC) and Bryan Shealer (GaTech) volunteered to draft a report.

Insurance for International Students and Scholars

Sue reviewed the recent developments in the HTH international student insurance policy. As the policy was going to expire last spring, the bid process got bogged down at the DOAS. Because the RFP was so late, the OIE requested an extension of the existing HTH policy as allowed under the contract. HTH agreed but increased the premium although it also offered a less expensive alternative with less coverage. Doug Podoll explained that re-bidding for an international student policy may prove unnecessary. He announced that he is a member of a BOR task force (the Student Health Insurance Task Force) exploring a mandatory insurance policy that includes all USG international students and all graduate students receiving graduate teaching or research assistantships. The task force will be meeting regularly and a RFP is expected soon. Richard Beaubien and many others indicated they opposed a universal policy if it meant raising premiums for international students in order to provide a policy for graduate students, something which would primarily benefit the research universities. Libby Davis emphasized the need for the task force to consider the providers available in less populated areas of the state. Various members indicated they were unhappy with the composition of the task force which included only BOR administrators and representatives from UGA, GaTech , Georgia State and the Medical College . Others reiterated the concern about the potential of raising premiums for international students. There was widespread concern about such a rapid push toward universal mandatory insurance, especially with such a narrowly represented task force. Sue Watson asked CISS members to seek input from their campuses and forward their comments to her or Adebayo privately, or to just use the listserv as a means of getting the CISS position to Doug Podoll more quickly.

Workshops

Sue Watson asked about continuing the workshops that were offered around the state last year. Todd Jones (Georgia Highlands) suggested that workshops should not fall during spring break. Neal McCrillis wondered if the dates should be linked to other USG meetings. Others suggested scheduling the workshops in conjunction with NAFSA regional or GAIE conferences.

Sharing Visiting International Scholars

Adebayo asked whether there was a way to share international expertise. Marisa Foreman suggested adding a speaker's database to the OIE website. Adebayo wondered if information could be sent to him after developing a form. Marissa Foreman said a form could be completed when the visiting scholar arrives. Others pointed out the dangers of making information publicly available. Neal McCrillis suggested that the committee work toward a January start date when newly arriving scholars could be asked to participate and complete a standard form designed by the CISS. There was some discussion about the fields necessary on the form, which Adebayo asked Richard Beaubien to draft.

International Student Recruitment

Adebayo informed the meeting that the OIE has contracted with Hobson's for recruitment of international students on behalf of all USG institutions. All USG institutions will be listed in online and print edition of recruitment materials. Sue explained that OIE used STARs funds returned late in the year.

New Business

Hurricane Katrina and International Students and Scholars

Several members discussed colleagues or friends affected by Hurricane Katrina. Sue Watson reported that the USG has established a website on Hurricane Katrina: <http://www.usg.edu/katrina/>. Adebayo reminded members of Sue Watson's message which contains instructions on dealing with compliance issues (enrolment in SEVIS, etc) affecting international students displaced by the hurricane.

Collaboration

Adebayo reported that when the USG cabinet and staff met on August 25-26, they agreed that a theme for the coming year was collaboration across the USG. David Adewuyi mentioned the African Education Research Network (<http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/aern/INDEX.HTML>) and online journal *The African Symposium* as an example of collaboration.

Revision of USG Residency Manual

Sue mentioned there is a USG committee working on residency definitions and the accompanying policy manual.

Communication

Adebayo encouraged everyone to use the CISS listserv for sharing information, resources and questions.

Other Matters

Doug Podoll reported on advocacy matters. He also announced that NAFSA Region VII will be meeting at the Sheraton Birmingham, AL on November 03, 2005-November 09, 2005 . The venue was changed from Biloxi , MS , due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

Next Meeting

There was some discussion about the next meeting of the CISS. Members decided the best date is October 28, 2005 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Neal R. McCrillis, Columbus State University .

© **Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia**

270 Washington Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30334

U.S.A.