

Committee on International Students and Scholars (CISS)

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Minutes

Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA. | 1:00pm, PS CRm237

Chair: Brett Reichert, Georgia State University – Atlanta Campus

Vice Chair: Marisa Atencio, Georgia Institute of Technology

Member at Large: Veronique Barnes, Georgia State University – Perimeter College

Member at Large: Jason Wynn, Georgia College and State University

In attendance:

Albany State University/ Darton State College Sue Ann Balch

Armstrong State University Dorothee Mertz Weigel

Augusta University Beverly Myers Tarver

Clayton State University Ryan Packard

Columbus State College Neil McCrillis

Georgia College & State University Susie Ramage

Georgia Gwinnett College Casey Giacomini & Justin Jernigan

Georgia Institute of Technology Marisa Atencio, Dr. Doug Podoll

Georgia Southern University Tanya Brakhage & Patricia Beavan

Georgia Southwestern State University Sarah Speir

Georgia State University Veronique Barnes, Brett Reichert

Kennesaw CISS Chair

Committee purpose and leadership for new attendees; expect 1 r1.5

in the Jan 2016 CISS meeting; Dorothee, Armstrong; second by Julie

Kennesaw

Brief introductions of attendees (Angelique McClendor & Adnan Dadovic, DDS representatives)

1. DDS (Dept. of Driver Services) Adnan Dadovic, team lead for central issuance department & Angelique McClendor, the general

- a. Brett rWhat are the cases that are "caught in the gap" between academic semesters and aren't eligible to obtain a renewal of their license? Can you clarify guidelines? (No response)
- i. Adnan rWhat are the most common cases/concerns related to denial of cases
- b. Sue Ann rWhat is the grace period for an expiring license?
- i. Angelique rThere is none! The day on the DL is the date it expires.
  - ii. Adnan rthis is an opportunity for us to work together/exchange numbers & contact to support individual cases if a student sends a concern through the DDS website it will go to Adnan's group. Suggestion that we email him directly
  - iii. Most of the time we have cases of SAVE cases pending (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> level) USCIS about 15 days behind in responding to SAVE cases pending. Normal processing is stated at 5 business days but their backlog is creating delays for DDS.
  - iv. Brett r what is DDS communication with state/local law enforcement agencies about state driver's policies?
    1. Angelique rThere is no organized method at this time outside of the web based communication tools, annual required training for law enforcement agencies. This is complicated by the different jurisdictions & agencies. There is an opportunity for better/more communication but it is unfortunate that the annual training isn't sufficient.
  - v. Tanya r If a student has a valid license but has an application for reinstatement, is the DL valid?
    1. Adnan r Yes, the DL is still valid as long as the student has an application pending.
  - vi. Adnan r In relation to the International DL, it is considered to be limited term and officers may be treating it as such
  - vii. Beverly r Who exactly calls individuals if they are bumped up to secondary or 3<sup>rd</sup> level processing?
    1. for treating up the SAVE cases, most

being

privacy reasons. Contact CISS Chair, Brett Reichert to request this information.

- c. Brett r Based on 2010 guidance the information needed if a DSOs going to call on behalf of a student with modifications suggested by Adnan:
  - i. Date of visit & Date of Birth
  - ii. Customer Service Center location/ DDS office
  - iii. DL license #
  - iv. Full name
  - v. Gender
  - vi. SAVE case number
- d. Brett r How many DDS offices?
  - i. Angelique 67 total in GA with different hours, volume and populations/training
- e.

not forget about the Medical Evacuation & Repatriation plan being available separately for scholars.

- v. Brett r additional questions can be directed to?
    1. Shay e either Tammy or myself
  - vi. Beverly r request for a single point of contact for the two different populations.
- d. Rotary student status r For J visa
- i. In the past Rotary was adamant that the F visa be used. New leadership in Rotary means there is an opening for both visa options being used?
  - ii. USG System/OI E office is looking for the possibility for the J visa to be used
    1. Tanya r J visa is more appropriate
    2. Beverly r F visa is being used
    3. Brett r Some schools have used the F visa b/c they don't have the J visa designation
    4. Sue Ann r How does funding source come into play? Local U.S. based Rotary clubs are funding the students to participate in the program
    5. Brett r Rotary has an office in Savannah called

- a. Variationscampusto campusFor example,non exemptemployeesand“clockingin and out” oncea dayor four timesa day?
- b. Campusimplementationanddiscussion,comptime at 1.5hoursof the actualtime workedover 40 hours;professionadevelopmentandconferenceparticipationand impacton our stateGAIAssociationandbeyond.
- c. Comingfrom a Universitywho hasjust experienceda hugeconsolidation;it becomesa secondjob for non exemptstaff who aren't compensatedfor extra hoursnecessary. Considerthe HumanResourcesimpacton those who are most affectedand who do so muchof the

b. SueAnn rWill I 515A'sdiminish?

i. Not likely although it may change how/when students receive them

c. Julie If you have someone traveling, be sure to put notes in the remarks section; If students have to go through the booths with officers; a letter from the school

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## Addendum to CISS Minutes

### Notes on Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Visit at Atlanta Airport

Julie Sharpe of Kennesaw State University and Casey Giacomini from Georgia Gwinnett College, who attended the CISS meeting, both participated in the recent CBP visit at Atlanta airport. They provided the following notes to be added to the CISS minutes.

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The CBP tour was directed from the main counter, through the Port of Entry area, over to the tri- r counter, through secondary holdings, as well as the interrogation and further (criminal) holding and deportation area, finally ending at the baggage inspection area.

While there are new individual kiosks for document checkin, student visas are still inspected at the individual staffed booths.

- The officers placed less importance of viewing the I 20s and more emphasis on SEVIS being up to date.
- They are asking only for the passport at the time of entry. If there is an issue, they send them a few yards over to the tri- r counter where the officers can view SEVIS and any SEVIS notes necessary.
- If the issue is not resolved, the student is escorted across the baggage area to “soft secondary”, where they wait in a holding area. Each person escorted to soft secondary receives an envelope with a color that indicates why they are there (document issue, violation, bag inspection, etc...). The officer reviews documents to determine if the individual will do to “hard secondary.”
- I 515s are being used less, and usually not for lack of I 20 travel signatures although students do still need to travel with I 20, signed for travel in hand. The I 515 now has a shorter deadline for submission so that the POE officer can receive it by their deadline.
- This is where many items are confiscated such as food/plant based items to prevent unwanted invasive species of insects or bacteria.
- We observed a line for questioning in the “Hard secondary” area. There was a student and the officers were questioning him on his return trip from Cancun. They asked about the purpose of the visit, who he met with, and to empty his bag and pockets. We left before seeing the end, but those seemed to be typical questions they asked.