

PIER Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

1:30PM – 3:00PM

Grossmont College, Governing Boardroom SSC-1

A. Welcome: Chair Maria Malloy welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then introduced Peter White, VP of Student Services of Grossmont College. He commented on the fantastic weather and then welcomed us to the campus. He then proceeded to thank everyone present many times over on behalf of many people. He thanked us for coming to the meeting at Grossmont College. He then thanked us on behalf of Grossmont's administration, faculty, staff and students and listed what we meant to all of these groups. He thanked Mika and Carol for all the work they did for him and how through that could really see the shepherding we all do for our students.

B. Introduction of PIER Members: In keeping with tradition, all the members and special guests in attendance introduced themselves by name and institution.

C. PIER Business

1. **Membership:** Rita reported that before today's meeting we had 119 members. She then said that we had gotten two new members today for a grand total of 121. She added that there were some other non-members who were now qualified to become members and had already paid for their membership through their attendance at the Basic Immigration Workshop. She asked any of them in attendance to please see her after the meeting to formally apply.
2. **Treasurer:** Kiere informed the membership that we had \$2421.62 in checking and \$35.67 in savings.

D. US Consulate Tour Update: Kim reported that there were a few seats left for the trip. She reported that she had sent everyone who emailed her an email confirming receipt of their emails. She said she would be emailing everyone a final confirmation with details in the near future. She said that everyone going needed to bring picture IDs with them and that those who were not US citizens needed to bring their passports.

E. PIER Logo Contest: Kim announced that, with apologies to the original members present, that we thought it was time to update the PIER Logo. She said that we were soliciting entries for a contest to choose a new one. She said we would need the entries to be sent in by May, as we would like to unveil the new logo and announce the contest winner at our final meeting in June. She said that the prize would be a free lifetime membership in PIER.

F. NAFSA Travel Grant: Maria announced that once again PIER was offering two \$400 travel grants to the NAFSA national conference in Seattle. She said we were offering one to a seasoned member and one to a new member. Applications are available on the

website and the deadline is April 1. Jane Kalionzes, last year's recipient, and Rita Favro will select the winners before the early bird registration deadline for the conference.

G. NAFSA Regional XII Conference: Maria reminded everyone that the Southern District conference was coming up on April 21 and 22. She advised those interested to go to the NAFSA XII website for more information: <http://www.region12.nafsa.org/>.

H. PIER Membership Evaluation Form: Maria urged all the members to fill out one of the surveys. With all the recent immigration changes and the growing membership the PIER Board is very interested in getting feedback from the membership. She asked that everyone mail the forms back to her the following week.

I. Special Guests – ICE: Maria announced that we had some special guests from ICE and Holly Lundgren, Vince Zion and David Abbot came up front. Holly introduced herself as the new ICE Supervisor, Special Agent. She said that we would be seeing her at our meetings from now on, as she had been newly assigned to the duties formerly assigned to Ed Mafong. She introduced Vince, an ICE Officer who will also be attending our meetings from now on. ICE Agents Caleb Livermore and David Abbot will no longer be working with us and attending our meetings. David thanked us for all our cooperation. Maria told us that she had Holly's contact information if anyone needed it.

J. Special Guest - William Fall: Maria announced that this was a very special meeting as we would be honoring Bill Fall of Coleman College, one of the PIER founding members, upon his retirement. She introduced Carol Compton from Grossmont College to share some thoughts about Bill.

Carol told us how 20 years ago she started working for Grossmont College and that three years later became an International Student Specialist and joined PIER. She told us that her PIER mentor was Bill Fall. She related a story that she felt really depicted the type of wonderful man Bill was. She said that back in those pre-SEVIS days, I-20s were very precious commodities. She typically needed about 350 forms and then all of sudden her international student applications skyrocketed to between 500-600, leaving her almost 100 short. She didn't know what to do, asked around and someone suggested she call Bill Fall. The next day the I-20s appeared on her desk. Carol said that in itself was a testament to Bill, but what really amazed her was that she later found out that Bill had actually got out of his sick bed to deliver them to her.

Martha Franklin of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law then came up front and told us that her first memory of Bill Fall was a very typical one. She was very timidly walking into the Federal Building 23 years ago for her first meeting as a PIER Member when she spotted someone with a big smile on his face beckoning her to sit with him. Of course, it was Bill Fall. She also related another I-20 rescue mission with Bill as the star. This time he delivered precious I-20s to Martha's Dean, which she said probably saved her job!

Jane Kalionzes from San Diego State followed Martha and told us that Bill was the second or third PIER Chair (Bill said he was second.). She said one of her fondest

memories of Bill was of him trying to get refreshments through security at the Federal Building for one of our early meetings there. She said she was thrilled that he could retire and joined all of us in wishing him a great time.

George Murphy, who is retired from Cuyamaca College, was the next to speak about Bill. He said he goes back with Bill much longer than everyone else. He said he actually met Bill in a graduate school class at Wayne State University in Detroit. He also remembers meeting with Bill and a few other international educators at National University, the original group that became PIER. George then read us a very long warm and wonderful letter from Jacquelyn Winn, another retired Cuyamaca College staff member, who became a very close friend of Bill's through their association in PIER.

After that, PIER Chair Maria Malloy presented Bill with a plaque honoring him for his service to PIER and international students. Everyone in attendance rose and gave Bill a warm and enthusiastic and heartfelt standing ovation. Bill then told us what a wonderful opportunity PIER was to meet people. He spoke of how he ended up calling Carol Compton for help later. He urged us to use the great network we have. He said the students really appreciate all we do for them. He thanked everyone for all their kind words and said he was particularly touched by Jacquelyn's letter.

K. Special Guest – Student Officer Chuck Kotkin: Maria told Chuck that we had really missed him. She said that we hadn't had the time before and would like to take this opportunity to recognize him for all he had done for us in the very difficult times we faced during his time as School Officer. Chair-elect Kim Jackson chimed in with a little anecdote about sitting with Chuck at a NAFSA Conference session. She marveled at his dedication and interest. Kim and Maria thanked Chuck for his professionalism, his advocacy and his commitment and presented him with a plaque honoring him for his service to PIER.

After a well-deserved standing ovation, Chuck shared a few words with us. He first acknowledged all the excellent Student Officers that had come before him, especially Vern Duncan and Lauren Mack who were present at the meeting and Hilda Trevino who wasn't. They were all very important actors in the student arena and worked very hard and contributed immensely to furthering international education and national security. Chuck said they had all made it much easier for him to do this job and he felt very lucky to build upon their foundation.

Debra Rogers, District Director Services for San Diego District, has been extremely instrumental in promoting and maintaining excellent communications, understanding, and rapport, with all international counselors in San Diego and Imperial counties. She enthusiastically supported sending the Student Officer from USCIS San Diego District to numerous national and local NAFSA conferences, and monthly PIER meetings. Her unfailing support to the schools and international students in the San Diego District has contributed immeasurably to the success of the implementation of SEVIS and to continuing excellent relations between USCIS and all those who work so hard in the international student arena.

Then in a style we had all come to love and expect, Chuck told us about first hearing Lauren give a great presentation about something called SEVIS. Chuck said he wondered, “What the hell is that?”

Then during his two-year stint in this position many wonderful things happened. But, he still wonders, “What the hell is SEVIS?”

Then, as he always did, he got serious and told us that, “SEVIS is harmony, trust, cooperation, and a bunch of hard work on the part of the DSOs, the Department of Homeland Security, and the students- all working together to promote international education and at the same time to improve and preserve national security.”

Chuck concluded his comments by praising PIER as one of the most successful organizations that he has ever known and telling us that he still refers many people to it. He also told everyone that he really appreciated the excellent cooperation that he had received from all PIER members!

Vern Duncan then asked to say a few words and talked about the time when he was the School Officer and Lauren Mack was the Student Officer, in effect having two people doing what Chuck had to do by himself. He extolled Chuck on his professionalism and on the great job he had done and thanked PIER for their recognition of that.

L. Special Presentation by Lauren Mack, ICE Public Affairs Officer & Jane Kalionzes, San Diego State: “It used to be INS, but who do I ask now?”: Before beginning her presentation, Jane said that she, too, wanted to thank Chuck and relate a little story about him. She said that when SDSU was getting ready for the SEVIS new school approval, she was approaching a “milestone” birthday. Chuck approved SDSU on her birthday and then called her to wish her a happy birthday and to see if she liked her present! Jane said that she doesn’t know what we would have done without Chuck’s mentorship during the most difficult time our profession has ever had to go through.

Jane then looked up and saw that another former School Officer Lydia Martinez from the early 1980s was present and introduced her to everyone. She then proceeded to tell us the history of today’s presentation.

She told us that it was first presented at last November’s Region XII Conference. She noticed last year that many NAFSA and PIER members were still unclear about what DHS does so she thought it would be a good topic to begin preparing for a presentation. She said she was thinking about doing a panel discussion. She talked to Lauren Mack about her ideas and in the middle of their discussion realized that, hey, Lauren is my panel!

Jane then spoke about how lucky we were in San Diego, that “somehow San Diego breeds great School Officers.” She said that among the many things Lauren had done, she had been a district adjudicating officer, an inspector, served on the CIPRIS task force, presented at the national NAFSA Conference on “Forming a PIER Group,” and was

currently often seen on the evening television news in her role as the ICE Public Affairs Officer.

Jane and Lauren then began their very informative presentation. Afterwards, they gave us authorization to post the Power Point presentation on our PIER website. You can find it there.

M. General Announcements and Questions from the PIER Audience

Announcement: The Department of Commerce is sponsoring a Study USA Fair in Tijuana on March 31 and April 1. They are reaching out to Mexico students, now the seventh largest international student population in the US, about studying in the United States. For information, contact Judith Valdes at judith.valdes@mail.doc.gov

Question 1: Are their guidelines available for students who have F-1 who are returning to their country and are being told by the US embassy that they need new visas?

Answer: Nobody knows for sure. ICE promised to look into it for us

Question 2: Has anyone had any problems with EAD students who left the country coming back in after the new work regulations were announced?

Answer: Several PIER members said they had not.

Question 3: When will recertification start?

Answer: Several PIER members had heard rumors, but nothing definite has been announced.

Question 4: Do schools with Certificate Programs need to have M-1 status for students in these programs?

Answer: There were mixed answers to this question. Some schools said that they had been told that they must and others said that it depends on how you defined the certificate program. Was it an academic or a vocational type of program? So this issue remains unresolved.

N. Meeting Adjourned: Maria adjourned the meeting at 3:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vince Burns
PIER Secretary 2004-2005