



## Minutes PIER Meeting

**Wednesday, 03/14/2007**

1:30PM – 3:00PM  
San Diego City College

### I. Welcome

- ❖ Chair Olga Piro welcomed everyone to the fourth PIER meeting of 2006-2007. Study Abroad Coordinator Marion Froehlich introduced Gerald Ramsey, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs. Mr. Ramsey welcomed PIER to San Diego City College.

### II. Traditional Introduction of PIER Members

- ❖ In keeping with tradition, all the members in attendance introduced themselves by name and institution.

### III. PIER Business

- ❖ Membership: Hao Nguyen  
There are currently 119 paid PIER members.
- ❖ Treasurer: Eric Abutin  
We had \$1706.15 in checking and \$36.43 in savings.
- ❖ Report on the New Professionals Workshop held 02/23:  
There were a total of 35 participants and six information sessions.
- ❖ PIER Board Positions Open for 2007-08: Secretary & Treasurer

### IV. General Announcements/Updates

- ❖ Two \$500 Grants Available for the NAFSA Conference in Minneapolis: The application is online. Applications must be received by April 6. Awardees must report on a workshop or session.
- ❖ New I-765: The latest version of the form is dated 02/08/2007. The old form can be used until March 30, 2007 only.
- ❖ New Fee Structure for Immigration Forms: If you are interested in advocacy, comments are accepted on the CIS and NAFSA websites until 04/02/2007.
- ❖ Direct Filing to the California Service Center as of 04/02/2007: Reinstatement applications should now be sent directly to the CSC, not via InfoPass.
- ❖ SEVIS User Manual Update on ICE website as of 02/27/2007.
- ❖ How to Prepare for a SITE visit from ICE resource is on the NAFSA website as of 02/16/2007.
- ❖ Reinstatement: Send the original I-94 card. If the reinstatement is approved a new I-94 card will be issued. If denied, the original I-94 card will be returned.
- ❖ No More Interim EAD: Mandate to review I-765 within 90 days. NOTE: This does not mean all EADs will be adjudicated in 90 days or less.
- ❖ J2 EADs are issued for the length of the DS-2019, not to exceed 4 years.

## V. Open Forum/Q&A

### **Can students travel to Mexico during their 60-day grace period?**

Karen Philis, CBP Manager for Border Security, will forward this question to headquarters. Historically most local advisors have recommended students NOT travel to Mexico after completion of studies unless they can reenter as tourists. For the time being, and unless we hear otherwise from CBP officials, advisors are encouraged to continue advising students against attempting to travel outside the U.S. and reenter in F1 status after completion of studies.

### **What should an advisor do when a student has inconsistent personal information (ie. – Name Spelling, date of birth, etc.)?**

ICE Special Agent Vincenzo Zoni recommended starting with the Embassy/Consulate. A student should check the personal information in his or her passport/visa prior to entering the U.S.

### **Does a termination automatically trigger the unlawful presence clock?**

Danny Andrade, Director of the Salk Institute for Biological Sciences, stated unlawful presence doesn't start until the person in D/S status is notified by DHS.

### **Is a transfer student required to begin the next available session at the new school as listed in the ICE Transfer FAQ?**

The CFR states a transfer student's new school must begin within 5 months of the student's previous program end date. The CFR does not state a transfer student must begin the next available session at the new school. Study Abroad Coordinator Marion Froehlich indicated the regulations are written for colleges and universities and not for language schools with sessions occurring throughout the year. Danny Andrade stated the CFR supersedes any ICE FAQ in the court of law. Olga Piro indicated she recommends students start at the next available session, but does not make it mandatory.

### **New 5-Year Rule for J1 Professors & Research Scholars:**

Danny Andrade stated a scholar in J1 status (Research Scholar or Professor) for less than 6 months is not subject to the 24-month bar. This is contrary to what the NAFSA Manual advises and Danny indicated NAFSA is working to fix the error. Work is still being done with DOS to clear up this issue/discrepancy.

## VI. Farewell to Carol Compton, International Admissions Specialist, Grossmont College

## VII. Closing