



Professional International Educator Roundtable – PIER

Minutes PIER Meeting

November 14, 2007

2:15 p.m.

American Language Institute - San Diego State University

- A. Welcome by American Language Institute Executive Director Bill Price.
- B. PIER Business
 - a. Membership – Hao Nguyen
 - i. 83 Paid Members
 - ii. PIER members in attendance were asked to double check the PIER Membership lists to confirm that their information is correct. Those who were not in attendance should check the PIER website to confirm that their name and contact information is correct. Please contact Hao Nguyen or the info@piergroup.org email regarding any changes or PIER Membership questions.
 - iii. Reminder – PIER dues increase by \$5.00 on December 1st
- C. Treasurer Report – Rich Yien
 - a. Currently there is \$647.24 in the PIER account
- D. PIER Chair Announcements – Melissa Diaz
 - a. PIER Grant Recipients: Rich Yien from The Scripps Research Institute and Layla San Jose from UCSD
 - b. Next PIER meeting will be held at USD on January 16, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
- E. PIER Co Chair Announcements – Karla Marcias
 - a. PIER Mentors will be assigned within the month. Karla will contact PIER Mentors with their Mentees and vice versa.
- F. PIER Grant Recipient Presentations from the NAFSA Region XII Conference in San Francisco November 5 to 8 2008
 - a. Richard Yien – *J-1 Update*
http://piergroup.org/presentations/exchange_visitor_program_update.ppt
Richard reviewed the key points of this update
 - i. Some Key Points:
 - 1. DS-7002 issues with U.S. Consulate – This is a form to be used by J-1 Trainees only, but many non-trainees are asked to fill out this form. This

is a U.S. DOS training issue. Report any issues regarding this to the particular consulate or to NAFSA Issuenet.

2. On November 2, 2007, the State Department published in the Federal Register a final rule entitled Exchange Visitor Programs-- Sanctions and Terminations. UPDATED - The final rule published at 72 FR 62112, November 2, 2007, is withdrawn effective November 29, 2007. (I just learned today)
3. Two year bar on repeat participation is activated once scholar arrives in the United States in J-1 Research Scholar or Professor Categories. According to DOS, two year bar is also applicable to J-2 dependents. Consider use of the Short Term Scholar category when applicable. Also utilize the “out of country” instructions per DOS memo to NAFSA on May 24, 2007 (available on NAFSA web site) when applicable. Role of advisors to “pre-advise” incoming scholars (especially those that are graduate students near finishing their Ph.D. and expect to come to the US as postdoctoral scholars) negative affects of this rule and how it could impact their future plans in the U.S.

(Please see the PowerPoint Presentation for further information)

b. Layla San Jose – *Gray Areas in International Student Advising*
http://piergroup.org/presentations/gray_areas.ppt

Layla reviewed the key points from this NAFSA presentation.

a) Key Points:

1. Conflict between CIS, CFR and Institutional Codes causes “Gray Areas”
 - a. Refer to the NAFSA Advisor Manual
 - b. Refer to the CFR - Although they can be confusing
 - c. Research other written resources
 - d. Ask for advice from knowledgeable colleagues
 - e. Include others in the International Student Office to avoid the student from “shopping for an answer”.
2. CFR is not clear and is confusing
 - a. CONS:
 1. Held accountable for incorrect interpretation
 2. If too narrow, limit student’s possibilities
 3. If too broad, new issues and conflicts
 - b. PROS:
 1. Flexible Advising
 2. Able to meet International student’s needs
 3. More room to make argument
 4. Given authorization to make decisions on own

G. The PIER Chair opened the meeting to discuss any other presentations from the NAFSA Regional Conference that PIER members attended

a. F-1 Workshop

- i. Olga Piro pointed out that someone from DMV in Sacramento attended the F-1 Workshop so they could better understand the F-1 visa. This person told attendees that the California DMV was

requesting that all F-1 students show a Social Security Number when they apply for a driver license. DMV's understanding was that all F-1 students can get a SSN.

- ii. This statement caused a discussion on issues that students and scholars have in regards to obtaining a driver's license.
- iii. PIER Response – PIER hopes to have a representative at a future meeting to discuss issues such as this.

H. CBP Issues

- a. Please contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection if students or scholars have any issues when they enter at the U.S. Port of Entry. These complaints are taken seriously by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- b. If a student has an issue with a particular CBP Officer at the US POE, they should get their name and badge number.
- c. The DSO or RO can assist the student with getting in contact with the CBP Director for the particular POE.
- d. CBP at SFO feeds social security information from a computer which scans I-94 cards. Thus, biographical information may not match passport, I-20, or DS-2019 information if visiting student/scholar has incorrectly filled out I-94. Good practice to advise international students/scholars to write their name exactly as it appears in their passport on I-94 card – and neatly!

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.