



Professional International Educator Roundtable – PIER

Minutes PIER Meeting

January 16, 2008
2:00 p.m. concluded 4:00 p.m.
University of San Diego

A. Welcome

- a. Steven Pultz Director of USD Admissions welcomed the PIER members to USD. PIER is the first large group to hold a meeting in the new International Gateway building which was opened in the Fall of 2007. USD's energy and focus is on internationalization. In the spring of 2008 USD opened the School for Justice and Peace Studies which is only one of a few institutions to offer Peace Studies.
- b. Traditional PIER introductions

B. PIER Business

- a. PIER Chair Melissa Diaz reminded members about the "New Professionals Workshop" on February 22, 2008.
- b. Melissa announced that Kasey McCarthy will be the 2008-2009 PIER Chair Elect, Karla Macias will be the PIER Chair and Danielle Versari volunteered to be PIER Membership Coordinator. The Web Master will continue to be Mike Dietz and the PIER Treasurer will continue to be Richard Yien.
- c. The PIER Board is looking for a PIER Secretary for the 2008-2009 Membership
 - i. (side note by me – it is not that bad, you need only report on 5 PIER Meetings, it is just time consuming sometimes)
- d. PIER Treasurer Richard Yien gave the PIER treasury report. Currently PIER has \$581.24 in the checking account.
- e. PIER Membership Coordinator Hao Nguyen gave the member report. Currently there are 101 PIER Members. Dues are now \$20.00. Membership covers the period from September to June for the current year regardless of when membership dues were paid.
- f. PIER Chair Elect Karla Macias announced that more PIER Mentors were needed as the Mentees outnumber the Mentors. If anyone is interested in being a PIER Mentor, please contact Karla Macias.
 - i. The PIER New Professionals Workshop will be held February 22, 2008 at the National University Spectrum Campus. Fees are \$20.00 for members, \$30.00 for nonmembers. Registration forms could be downloaded on the PIER website at www.piergroup.org The deadline without the \$5.00 late fee is February 8, 2008.
- g. Mike Dietz PIER Webmaster announced that he is currently updating the PIER website which is scheduled to be up and running in late February.
- h. PIER is still looking for a school to host the March 19, 2008 meeting. Currently no school has requested to host. The requirements are: a room large enough to hold 40

people and ample parking. Please contact Melissa Diaz PIER Chair if you are interested in hosting a PIER Meeting.

- C. PIER Chair Melissa Diaz announced that Mitch Bareson the immigration attorney who was scheduled to speak, was not able to attend the PIER meeting due to illness. He works with international students at National University. He offers free immigration seminars to students at various universities in Southern California. He is based out of Los Angeles. The first consultation is free by phone or in person. Please contact Melissa Diaz for Mitch Bareson's contact information.

- D. CBP Deferred Inspections Announcement

- a. CBP Deferred Inspections has moved to Ash Street the new details are below:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Deferred Inspections

610 West Ash Street, Room 1005

San Diego, CA 92101

Phone numbers: (619) 685-4336 or (619) 685-4337 or (619) 685-4338

HOURS: 8:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY

You must be there no later than 3:00 or your I-94 can not be corrected.

NO CAMERA PHONES OR CAMERAS ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE BUILDING!!!

The office is located on the corner of Ash Street and India Street.

The link below will take you to the PIER website and directions to the CBP Deferred Inspections

Office: <http://piergroup.org/pdf/uscis.pdf>

- E. Roundtables:

- a. PIER Members broke into roundtables based on their particular institution – University, Community College, Language Schools, Secondary Schools, Scholars/H1b and Vocational Schools. Each group discussed issues relevant to their area.
 - b. The biggest issues for everyone were transfer issues – when to transfer, initial transfers, transfer errors. We all discussed the SEVP regulations relating to SEVIS transfers.
 - c. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issues – students traveling to Mexico during 60 day grace period, but being allowed back in on student status, CBP mistakes at the POE. CBP Deferred Inspections can correct POE mistakes.
 - d. FERPA and agents, schools discussed ways to work with agents and students.

- F. The last 15 minutes were left for PIER members to mingle and network and discuss issues further on a one to one basis

- G. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.