



Professional International Educator Roundtable – PIER

Minutes PIER Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

2:00 pm

National University

9388 Lightwave Avenue

Room 114

San Diego, CA 92123

I. Welcome

- a. Eric Abutin, Immigration Specialist, National University
 - 1. encouraged PIER membership and participation
 - 2. stressed importance of mentorship program

II. Traditional Introduction of PIER Members

III. PIER Business

- a. Membership (Karen)
 - 1. Total members: over 110 members
 - 2. New applications will be available shortly
- b. Chair-Elect (Kasey)
 - 1. Acknowledgement of outgoing board members:
 - i. Karla Macias, Chair
 - ii. Mike Dietz, Webmaster
 - iii. Layla San Jose, Secretary
- c. Chair (Karla)
 - 1. Acknowledgement of incoming board members
 - i. Tricia Chan (UC San Diego), Secretary
 - ii. Adam Cooke (Connect English), Webmaster
 - iii. Chair-elect position still available

IV. NAFSA Updates

- a. **Sallie Edmondson, UCSD Extension, English Language Institute**
“Preparing for SEVIS II” (see attached presentation)

Highlights:

- 1) *Total redesign*: searching and reporting capabilities

- 2) *Easier navigation*: one person-one record; admissibility indicators, etc.
- 3) All users to have customer account and unique ID: everything (changes, updates, document creation done electronically)
- 4) Students and EVs responsible for updating their own information

Implementation:

- 1) Phase 1 (Data Migration) to take place by October 2009
- 2) Phase 2 (Roll Out) to take place by March 2010
- 3) Full deployment by September 30, 2010 (though all dates continue to be pushed back)

Preparation:

- 1) Update I-17/DS-3036, (P)DSO and (A)RO information
- 2) Draft communications plan
- 3) Update website, emails, handouts
- 4) Check NAFSA and ICE websites for more information
- 5) Feedback groups:
 - Schools: <http://groups.yahoo.com/sevisii>
 - Batch: <http://groups.yahoo.com/sevisiibatch>

b. Maaren Powers, CSU San Marcos, American Language and Culture Institute

“When International Students Speak, Can You Really Hear What They Say?” (see attached presentation and handout)

Highlights

- Goal: To understand cultural understanding, our own as well as students, so we can reduce anxiety
- Iceberg Theory: outward behaviors vs. internal factors
- Culture as a “gear that drives us”: values in workplace may be influenced by culture
- “Riding the Seven Waves of Culture: Understanding Diversity in Global Business” (Trompenaars’ Seven cultural dimensions)
 - 1) *Universal vs. Particular*
 - i. One is valued more than the other
 - ii. Example: definition of “requirement:” some students understand inherent meaning of requirement while others still question
 - 2) *Neutral vs. Affective*
 - i. Is it unprofessional to overtly express emotions? Should we always be neutral as advisors?
 - 3) *Specific vs. Diffuse*
 - i. Do we define our boundaries as solid or dotted lines?
 - ii. Are we direct and transparent with some students and ambiguous with others, depending on our experience with students of that culture?
 - 4) *Sequential vs. Synchronic*
 - i. Does time move forward or in cycles?

ii. How does culture motivate this? Are some students dedicated to schedules while others see time as flexible?

5) *Internal vs. External*

i. Are you in control of your own destiny?

ii. Seen in advising students: some will take responsibility for own actions while others place blame on professors, fellow students, etc.

6) *Achievement vs. Ascriptive*

i. Who you are as a person (social pedigree) compared to what you've achieved

7) *Individual vs. Collective*

i. Do some students thrive on being autonomous while others' decisions depend on group norms and values?

-Uncertainty avoidance (Hofstede): extent to which people in a culture feel threatened by uncertain or unknown situations

-How well do you communicate?

-How much communication do students need?

-How do you/students react when things change

-Importance of being able to:

-adapt to situations

-be open-minded

-show empathy

-show tolerance

c. Additional feedback

-Issues with SEVIS II

-concerns with students' access to information

-concerns with students' ability to initiate the process

-concerns with data integrity of student-entered information

-Very good plenary session

-Professor Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi banker and economist, founder of Grameen Bank, author of *Banker to the Poor*

-Session about point of view of dependents

-dealing with establishing, redefining identity

-Southern District (<http://www.region12south.nafsa.org/>) Newsletter (follow link to subscribe:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=gr65d8qWn9fCPgVGrJDehQ_3d_3d)

-no limited to NAFSA members

-Conference handouts

-available at <http://acsearch.nafsa.org/KCSessions.aspx>

-SEVIS I-901 Payment

-students from certain countries barred from using credit card to pay fee

-question of legality

d. NAFSA Region XII Conference

(<http://www.region12.nafsa.org/r12conferences.html>)

-Kasey McCarthy and Danielle McMartin, Conference Co-Chairs

-October 26-30, 2009, Town & Country Hotel

-Encouraged to become more involved!

-Call for proposals for upcoming conference sessions

-<http://www.region12.nafsa.org/09SD/Proposal.html>

-<http://www.region12.nafsa.org/09SD/CallSD09-3.pdf>

V. Closing

-Meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm