

MIE Meeting
College of St. Benedict/St. John's University
May 14, 2010

AGENDA

8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:10	Welcome by Fr. Doug Mullin, SJU Vice President for Student Development.
9:10-9:30	Announcements
9:30-9:40	Tom Carey, founder of MIE
9:40-9:55	Intercultural Activity
9:55-10:30	“Life after OPT and/or F1 Immigration Status” Lori Friedman, Director, International Student & Scholar Services, St. Cloud State Julie Rabaey, Assistant Director of International Student and Scholar Services, MN State University, Mankato Admissions Breakout Session: “Using technology to recruit prospective international students”
10:30-10:40	Break
10:40-10:50	MIE elections results
10:50-11:30	Immigration Update, Scott Borene, Senior Attorney & President of Borene Law Firm SEVIS HQ Update/DHS Issues, Bruce Gawtry, Immigration Specialist The University of Minnesota and Macalester College
11:30 – 11:50	Immigration Q&A
11:50-12:00	Closing

INTRODUCTION

Alex Schleper, Director of International Student Program, introduces Vice President Father Doug Mullin. He says that STB and SJU form a unique partnership. They model for what international education is about and bring out the best in each other and learn about each other. STB/SJU has a longstanding commitment to int'l education from benediction history and mission work. But it's different from other mission work. Goal is to establish a monastery in other places that becomes independent as opposed to colonizing. People from over there come here, too. Welcome everyone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We will try to record MIE meetings in 2010-11
- New MIE google account (docs and email address)
MN.International.Educators@gmail.com
- New MIE member: Adesola Adetoba, graduate assistant at MN State University
- Amy Vansurksun (Region IV Rep): on Wednesday June 2nd there will be a regional meeting at NAFSA with a Minnesota dinner afterwards. The next regional/bi-regional conference will be in Omaha, November 12-17, 2010.
- MIE meetings 2010-11:
Hosting budget has been upped to \$250
Locations (dates to be determined):
September: MN State University, Mankato
November: McNally Smith College of Music, St Paul
Jan: Macalester College, St Paul
March: St Catherine's, St Paul
May: Augsburg College, Minneapolis

- MIE financial update/budget report from Stacey ([see attachment](#))
- Board members explain what they do. MIE members can nominate themselves or others for all positions except the Chair position, though all members are willing to stay on an extra year. Alex Schleper would like to nominate himself as an At-Large-Member and so does Susan Boehm (St Cloud State). The MIE board aims to represent a mix of schools.

TOM CAREY

Due to financial considerations Tom Carey's position at the University of St. Thomas has been eliminated. He thanks everybody and says it's good to be here. Started at Hennepin in 1966. In 1970 a Liberian student came to Hennepin and Tom got involved with Region IV. Became chair. Started workshops in the early '80s. Bi-regional conference with Omaha in 1983. Important to have a place to dialogue with immigration people and each other. First MIE meeting at Macalester in 1983. Committee was formed in 1988. Julie Rabbaey was first chair. Bruce Gawtry joined in 1987. The more we can exchange, the better we can do our jobs. Julie Rabbaey thanks Tom. He started what we have here. We owe him a lot and will miss him.

INTERCULTURAL ACTIVITY

"Cone of Learning": when we learn things passively, we forget them sooner ([see attachment](#)).
A Fair Shake. 3 sections of introducing yourself.

Objectives:

Experience how it feels to have your identity redefined

Experience how it feels to change a 'conventional' gesture like shaking hands

First round: introduce yourself and repeat the other person's name.

Second round: make up an adjective and noun with first and last letter of your first name (for example: My name is "Kind Mouse").

How did it make you feel?

fun, light-hearted, confused, hard, curious, did I do the right thing?, it didn't feel right

What did this have to do with culture? Chinese, Korean, Middle Eastern students often change their name. Latin American student often have many names. Your name is who you are. Can you change your name? Are you stuck with it?

Third round: shake with left hand and use any name you want.

How did it make you feel?

justice for left-handed people, odd, awkward, dirty, inappropriate

What's happening on your campuses that you can relate this to?

There are other ways of greeting: bowing, Namaste, kissing

Parents of students on campus. How do you greet them?

“LIFE AFTER OPT AND/OR F1 IMMIGRATION STATUS”

Julie Rabaey, ISSS Assistant Director, International Center, MN State University, Mankato. They have about 600 int’l students.

Lori Friedman, Director ISSS, St Cloud State. They have more than 1100 int’l students.

Lori: online OPT tutorial ([see attachment](#)). Don’t have forms online anymore. This has reduced walk-ins and questions. They drop the packet off at the desk and pick up their new I-20 after 5 business days. Info on their website about cap-gap. They organize a yearly “Life after OPT” panel in February (before the filing season begins) and distribute an immigration lawyer handout.

Julie: OPT packet and Powerpoint presentation. She educated their CDC and made them international student friendly. She doesn’t invite immigration lawyers because she doesn’t want to endorse anybody. You can invite int’l alumni; tons of online resources. Feel free to take any of their info and adapt.

See www.mnsu.edu/international/immigrationlaws

You may review/use items found, but if it is specific information, please cite MN State University, Mankato as the source.

Please do not encourage your students to seek advice from them. They are only authorized to assist their students, scholars and int’l faculty/staff.

Career and Visa Options for International Students ([see attachment](#)).

They created a video (using Mini Movies).

Employers are in charge on H1. Teach students on how to approach them. Fastest processing time is 4 weeks (and that is with paying the \$1000 extra fee for premium processing). Filing fees at least \$4000 in mandatory fees. It’s the employer’s responsibility.

There is a lot of misunderstanding about H1. You do not have to be the most qualified person. It’s a match. You do have to meet the requirements.

MIE ELECTIONS RESULTS

All current board members were re-elected. Two new members-at-large were elected, Susan Boehm and Alex Schleper.

MIE Board 2010-11:

Chair: Kim Koffi (St Cloud State)

Chair-Elect: Scott Johnson (NHCC)

Treasurer: Stacey Buachart (UMN)

Secretary: Nienke Wijnia

Webmaster: Erik Schmitz (St Cloud State)

Members-at-large: Cassie Bean (St Thomas), Susan Boehm (St Cloud State), Chenar Howard (Luther Seminary), Alex Schleper (CSBSJU)

SCOTT BORENE

- What every non-immigration lawyer should know about immigration law packet: "Immigration Update 2010: What Every Lawyer Should Know" (see attachment). Immigration legislation info; summary of experts. Please contact Scott if you would like a copy.
- Lot of immigration news lately because of what happened in Arizona – a new state-authorized illegal alien law to broaden local apprehension powers. Some consider it too broad and a federal responsibility only.
- U.S. Dept. of State: Continues to get complaints of visa denials from prospective community college students who aren't taken as seriously as higher education level students. They must have a realistic plan beyond English education. See the DOS cable on NAFA net: (<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=20113>)

The Department of State issued its annual Student and Exchange Visitor Visa Update [STATE 047061, 05/10] to consulates worldwide. This year's update covers the following topics:

- Visa Appointment Wait Times
- Students and Lesser-Known Programs
- Reporting Suspect Schools
- Summer Work and Travel Program Participant Timely Return
- Flight Training and Certification
- Study Incidental to Visit vs. Principal Purpose of Admission
- SEVIS CCD Reports

The cable is similar to prior annual cables, however the following are of particular note:

- In response to continued reports of consular offices who are unreceptive to applications from prospective students at community colleges, DOS states in the cable that such action is "at odds with CA policy."
- On the importance of the U.S. educational product, the cable states:

The U.S. educational sector regularly creates new formats and packaging to keep their products in the public eye. Following the economic downturn, U.S. educational institutions have stepped up overseas recruiting efforts, especially in countries where the language of instruction is English or that have an increasing demand for educated citizens who are adept in English. U.S. educational institutions may be considered a "good buy" with the decline in the value of the dollar. In addition, the United States may also be perceived to offer a level of institutional support that does not exist in other countries.

- Still looking at 5 year wait if you're from China or India because of quota limits and backlogs. Employment-based immigrant visas are divided into five preference categories. See the visa bulletin for details: http://travel.state.gov/visa/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html
- Zoë Baird – head-lawyer of insurance company. Friend of Clintons. Picked to be judge but had an illegal immigrant nanny. In a repeat of this federal govt. scandal, on Thursday the New York Times reported that the new DHS pick for the head of Custom and Border Protection, which enforces immigration laws, did not fill out an I-9 for his own household employee.
- USCIS: Green card will be green again! Major redesign. Laser personalization. Etc..
- H-1B: ran out of quota numbers (65,00 +20,000masters) last year in Dec. 2009. So quota is filled until Oct 1, 2010. However, to apply for an H-1B from Oct 1 2010 – Sept 30, 2011, the current quota has many slots left. If the economy goes up, applications will start to increase.
- System-wide transformation in processing procedures is under way. Increased use of electronic filing, use of lockboxes. OPT still not much e-filed due to follow-up biometric appointments required.

- CIR (comprehensive immigration reform). Scott went to Washington DC for a national board meeting. US House of Representatives and Senate are two key players. There is only a limited amount of legislative oxygen. They can do only one thing at the time. Right now financial reform is sucking the oxygen. And the Supreme Court nomination. Goes through Senate and sucks up a lot of time. Climate control (also Lindsey Graham) was going to be next in line; goes through Senate too. Oil well is a big distraction. Immigration Law might depend on this. See CIR handout (see attachment). 4 pillars: secure border; biometric social security card; plan to deal with illegal immigrants; what do you do about the future. Democrats can't do it alone. There's only one Republican (Lindsey Graham) who has said he wants to make this happen. Who will be the second Republican?

What probably will happen:

- Increased numbers for employment based immigrants
- STEM graduates: DREAM-act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) might make it through. Tom Friedman has said that every foreign student graduating with a PhD in America should get an automatic green card.
- April 23, law was signed in AZ that requires police to determine whether a person is in the United States legally. Obama criticized immigration bill saying that it violates national law. Copy of bill at http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1070. Part 4 is particularly interesting (re higher education).
- President Obama said that "there may not be an appetite to overhaul the nation's immigration laws this year". Washington Post: "Obama's fatal flinch on Immigration Reform" article at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/30/AR2010043001389.html>
- AP-Univision Poll: Hispanics think illegal immigrants contribute to the country and there is a net gain to the country economically. Non Hispanics think 'they are a drain on society'. Most Hispanics condemn AZ law, while only 20% of non-Hispanics oppose it. Watch between now and August recess. If no other Republican supports it, it won't happen until after 2011 election.

BRUCE GAWTRY

- Talked to SEVIS Headquarters. They're contacting USCIS regarding lockbox situation (delays). Tim Hanes said he would talk to them. The Phoenix contract bank staff apparently isn't adequate to handle fees and don't have enough staff to forward all the applications promptly. Added backlog increases of 1.5 months so far.
- 515 A's – CBP keeps saying there will be a new version with the right address. But most schools have started checking I-515A's to use the NAFSA address that still works before sending to SEVP HQ – if the student contacts them.
- SEVP HQ has a hard time communicating with CBP.
- Recertification is right around the corner.
- Bruce is on the national NAFSA travel and visa committee. Two things they recently asked the Dept. of State to do:
 1. Redo the Dept. of State F, M, and J priority cable and send it out – see Scott's note above for the results.
 2. Name conventions were moved and classified on Nov. 9, 2009 – so they requested a revised, unclassified version for SEVIS use. I haven't seen this out yet – I will check at NAFSA – KC.
- Liaison officers: still planned, but currently no funds available for these positions.
- Tim Hanes asked for suggestions for non-NAFSA people - how to communicate better with them.

- Larry Minner (CBP Officer of the Day at MSP): advises that the DHS “trip” procedure – see DHS.gov – has recently been successful in resolving problems with travel at POEs.

Bruce went to SEVIS HQ and sat in with SEVIS II team. SEVIS II will be delayed, since the team doesn't want to implement a program that still has software development needs and interagency coordination requirements to be finalized.

Q: Are there any problems with a college or university employing a student at a satellite office (considered part of the administrative offices) but located in another city either during the school year or during the holiday break?

A: Satellite offices – building doesn't have to be connected to campus. If it's a different approved school office, it's considered separate. What matters if it is part of the same school approval as listed on I-17?

Q: Is there a problem with a school paying a current, enrolled student to do work via the computer but the work is not done physically on-campus but in another location, either the student's home country during the break or in the US but far from campus during the break?

A: It has to directly support on-campus official administration functions or school-controlled operations, not a private project for a professor/staff person or independent individual or company. Anything outside of US is irrelevant to US immigration law.

Q: What if you do it at home on your laptop?

A: Must still be supporting school-controlled on-campus work. In a doubtful case, file for CPT if you want to be really cautious. Even if 'school premises' are far way, if the operation is owned and/or controlled by the institution and supporting on-campus work, it would be allowable. Again, if a doubtful case, file for CPT if you want to be conservative.

Q: Cap gap extension questions?

A: See the revised SEVIS Guidance Policy 1004-03 on the NAFSA .org website. See the Regulatory Information news and announcements for April 26, 2010 to reference the update.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by Nienke Wijnia