

MIE Minutes
15 May 2009
St. Olaf College, Northfield

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Welcome from Roz Eaton-Neeb, Associate Dean of Students, St. Olaf College

- ✓ Rox Eaton-Neeb welcomed the group by saying that she appreciates the work we do and the tough job international educators have in keeping track of the law and then explaining it to students, staff, and faculty.

Election for MIE board

- ✓ Luyen Phan, St. Olaf, will assume the position of Chair.
- ✓ Kim Koffi, St. Cloud State University, was elected Chair-Elect.
- ✓ Stacey Buchart, University of Minnesota, was re-elected Treasurer.
- ✓ Nienke Wijnia, Macalester College, was elected Secretary.
- ✓ Zhanna Saparova, University of St. Thoams, withdrew her name for Webmaster. David DiMaria explained that anyone who can use word, would be able to edit the website. David has notes on how to update the website. David DiMaria, St. Cloud State University, will serve as Webmaster until the group can find another person to take over the position.
- ✓ Scott Johnson, North Hennepin Community College, Cassie Bean, University of St. Thomas, Chenar Howard, Luther Seminary, and Katie Gumpertz, University of St. Thomas were elected as At Large Members.

Host institutions and dates for 2009-2010 MIE meetings

- ✓ The September 14 meeting will be held at Minnesota State University – Mankato.
- ✓ The November 17 meeting will be held at St. Cloud State University.
- ✓ The January 20 meeting will be held at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.
- ✓ The March 11 meeting will be held at Minneapolis College of Art and Design.
- ✓ The May 14 meeting will be held at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, St. Joseph.

Treasurer's report

- ✓ Stacey Buchart presented the current MIE budget to the group. MIE will go into next year with \$1,283.
- ✓ MIE uses the money from dues to reimburse food costs for meetings, purchase software for the MIE website, and in the past to provide scholarships to attend NAFSA conferences.
- ✓ MIE may want to consider using ITV or some other technology to help outstate schools connect to the meeting without traveling to the location. Other future expenses could include providing a stipend for a graduate assistant and hosting a reception at the next national NAFSA conference.

- ✓ The next MIE Board will consider whether or not they will conduct raffles for the Regional NAFSA conference in Rochester.
- ✓ The annual fee for the web server hosting will be paid in July. It will cost \$60.

SEVIS II Update, Stacey Buchart, University of Minnesota

- ✓ SEVP invited schools that use batch processing to the SEVIS II Update. Tom Gjersvig, Kim Koffi, CK Kwai, and Stacey Buchart attended the meeting.
- ✓ Lou Ferrell, the Director of SEVP explained that the goals of the meeting were to update schools as to where SEVIS II is in development and production and obtain feedback from schools about how the system should work.
- ✓ School representatives shared the amount of time they need to get up and running in the new system after SEVP delivers the code. SEVP is planning to deliver this code in December 2009 and start phase I of implementation in February. During this time schools will still have to manage student records in SEVIS I and, at same time, set up accounts in SEVIS II for staff and students. Phase I will also include migrating the data in SEVIS I to SEVIS II, adding new data such as emails and campus ID, and clean up and correct migrated data.
- ✓ Lou Ferrell did not give a start date for SEVIS II, but they said that it would take batch vendors six months to one year to do what they need to do to update their systems. Then it will take time for the school to work with the vendor to implement the new system. Ferrell asked which time of year was best to work on this and the schools indicated that November, June, or July would work.
- ✓ Lou Ferrell indicated that it costs USCIS a million dollars for every month that SEVIS II is not implemented.
- ✓ An Immigration Identification Number (IIN) will be created when a student creates a SEVIS II account. The idea behind this is "one person, one number." This number will stay with them no matter what happens with their immigration status. Students will no longer have multiple ID numbers. Everyone who enters something in SEVIS, including DSOs and school presidents who sign the I-17 will have an IIN. Schools will work on assigning all SEVIS users IINs in February 2010 during Phase I of implementation.
- ✓ Immigration documents will be paperless, but students will still be able to obtain a domestic I-20 and DS-2019 for SSN and DMV applications, etc. SEVP has been in communication with these government offices as well. At some point the student's picture will be printed on their document. SEVIS batch and RTI will include electronic signatures.
- ✓ Students will enter address updates, their date of birth, name, and other biographical information in SEVIS RTI. Schools will then have to get the IIN from the student and so they may want to add a field for the IIN on their applications. Schools asked SEVP if they could send IINs to the schools as well. Schools are also concerned about internet access in some countries. SEVP will allow proxies, including schools to enter the information for the student in these types of cases, however the students are still ultimately responsible for their own record and so that is why SEVP encourages them to enter the information. Schools noted that there would be a lot of education to do with students regarding the new system.
- ✓ SEVP does not know how different SEVIS will look.
- ✓ Students will probably not have to pay a fee for the IIN. Lou Ferrell did not talk about SEVIS Fee.

Immigration Updates

Bruce Gawtry

- ✓ The Social Security Administration can now enter a SEVIS number in the SAVE system to look up a student's SEVIS status.

- ✓ CIS and SEVP are moving to electronic forms and documents like SEVIS. SEVIS is in the forefront of this movement, but it will not be long before everything is paperless. Already, some consulates will only accept I-160e, the electronic visa application.
- ✓ USCIS is working on regulation revisions including 214.1-4. They are planning to publish the revisions in the Federal Register in late June or early July. They will include a framework for recertification and revisions to the general nonimmigrant guidelines.
- ✓ Bruce is writing a comment paper on student employment issues including regulatory and non-regulatory issues.
- ✓ The job announcement for the liaison officers has been postponed, but SEVP could not give Bruce a specific date for when this would happen. They would like to have the officers in place for the SEVIS II implementation. They will be posted on usajobs.gov. The Minneapolis officer will not be hired during the first phase of implementation. Twelve officers out of the total 64 will be hired during the initial phase.
- ✓ Students who fall into the cap gap category must end school before June 2 and have their cap gap I-20 printed by that date. Students whose I-20s end after June 2 do not need the cap gap I-20. There is an information sheet for employers that explains what is needed and handouts on NAFSA website.
- ✓ Bruce does not have information about the recertification schedule so he advised everyone to continue to clean up their SEVIS records.
- ✓ The new passport rules for travel to Canada and Mexico go into effect on June 1. There is information about the rules listed on the cbp.gov and dhs.gov websites. Everyone will need a passport. The only exceptions to this rule are for US or Canadian citizens traveling in a group of 19 or more or who are under 16 years of age.
- ✓ The list of countries which have automatic revalidation restrictions is down to four, Iran, Syria, Sudan, and Cuba. Some countries have been removed. The list can be found on the NAFSA website.
- ✓ Parents of international students coming into the US for graduation should remember that they must declare if they are carrying over \$10,000 when traveling into the US because it will be seized by customs even if it is split up if it is not declared.
- ✓ Information for third-country national updating procedures for nonimmigrant visa processing in Canada and Mexico is available at the embassy websites. (usvisamexico.com)

Scott Borene

- ✓ New rules are out for all employers, including colleges and universities. They include the following: 1. A new I-9 form will be effective 4/3/09 2. A new I-129 form is effective now for H-1, O-1, etc. 3. LCA will be effective 6/30/09 4. A new 9089 Labor Certification form will be effective around 9/09. 5. The first revision of the employer handbook was published on 4-3-09.
- ✓ Scott recommended a new book from AILA regarding outbound immigration entitled, Going Global: Trends in Outbound Immigration.
- ✓ Third country nationals who go to Canada to revalidate their visa will be denied revalidation if their passport shows that they applied for new visa and it is pending or they did not get it.
- ✓ The new J-1 skills list will be effective June 28. Decision making authority for this issue is held exclusive by DHS/USCIS. The state department can only make recommendations.
- ✓ A new I-129 form with additional rules for sponsors of H-1 visa applicants. This is due to the government stimulus money.
- ✓ The quota for H-1 visa applications was oversubscribed by three times last April and this April the quota was not met and they are still accepting applications. The main reason for this is the economy. Therefore, college graduates who have found an employer should talk to them soon about applying for an H-1.

- ✓ USCIS has spent a lot of money to get their application back-log under control and right now they are stating that the processing time for I-129 applications are at 60 days or less, the I-140 will be at a 4 months or less processing time by September, and the I-765 applications are taking less than three months.
- ✓ The visa waiver program has changed and ESTA is in effect, which means that individuals can no longer just get on a plane without registering in ESTA first.
- ✓ Employment based green cards are out for this year. The new quote begins in September, but there is still a backlog of 3-4 years on these, with China at 4 years and India at 10 years.
- ✓ Recent testimony from the director of ICE explained that they would have kinder, gentler enforcement for individuals and harsher enforcement for employers, smugglers, and criminal charges. The probably means that there will not be immigration raids in the foreseeable future.

Announcements

- ✓ Lori Friedman, St. Cloud State University, worked on a chart for Minnesota International Educators with information on who the various NAFSA representatives are and their functions.
- ✓ Amy VanSurksum, St. Cloud State University, is the new Minnesota Representative for NAFSA and Lori Friedman, St. Cloud State University, is the new NAFSA KISSS Representative.
- ✓ The NAFSA National Conference Committee is looking for mentors for new NAFSA members.
- ✓ The 2009 Regional NAFSA Conference in Rochester in the fall and there will be travel grants available and they are looking for people to present sessions. There is an early bird incentive of \$50 per person or \$100 per session for presentations.
- ✓ Aimee Thostenson is gathering information on working with 16-year-old international students and on-campus housing. If anyone has information on this topic let Aimee know by email at aethostenson@stkate.edu.

Meeting Adjourned

12:00 Noon

Minutes Submitted by:
Annie Gemmell, North Hennepin Community College