



**Steering Committee for the Oversight of
HLC and Legislative Academic Compliance**

Minutes

June 28, 2018 | 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Carter Hall 4th Floor Board Room

✚ **Members Present:** Ann Bentz, Charlie Couch, Larry Loften, Anne Toewe, Marty Somero, Gardiner Tucker, Rachel Walton, Olga Baron, Nancy Rubin

Members Absent: Kim Black, Linda Black, Cindy Wesley, Lisa Grimes

✚ **Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2018 – approved**

✚ **Chair's Report - none**

✚ **State Authorization Update – Ann**

- The NC-SARA required report for 2017 was submitted the end of May thus maintaining compliance
- Working on the additional reporting requirements for 2018
 - Charlie found SGACCOOP – Banner form that will allow us to collect the info needed for the new reporting requirements
 - Charlie will follow-up with Lisa

✚ **GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Update – Ann**

- 6-7-18 meeting with VPs, AVPs, some program directors
- All agreed on the need for consistency across campus
- Statement for the website is under review by University Relations
- Document for students from EU countries is under review by legal counsel

✚ **[U.S. Department of State, Office of Designation, Academic and Government Programs](#) visit to UNC June 20, 2018: J-1 visa exchange visitor program updates and recommendations – Olga**

- DoS Compliance team is visiting institutions to review record keeping, reporting, documentation, program administration; assisting institutions in readiness for a formal audit
- The J-1 visa is a cultural exchange visa; UNC currently has 36 active records and 77 initial records created (arriving for Fall 2018 term)
- As an institution that sponsors a J-1 visa exchange program, UNC bears full responsibility for the activities and actions of the participants
- The expectations for the sponsor are clear; UNC must document the declaration of intent for all J-1 visa participants; no gray area; UNC's documentation is lacking
- DoS asked many questions about UNC's oversight of activities and how we assess the program
 - we must have a well flushed out plan
 - concerns expressed that we do not have a clearly written plan for each individual
- Must have a documented process for selection, admission, evaluation, and monitoring; strong recommendation to collaborate with academic units and develop a comprehensive approach to support visiting scholars
- Must document and provide oversight of the cultural exchange component
- Must explain the fluctuations in Exchange Visitor allocations from year to year; current allocation is 100 to include short-term visiting scholars, short-term program participants, non-degree exchange students


- Allocations can decrease or increase year to year
 - We need to document, analyze, and report the changes.
 - Visiting scholars and dual-degree students should be here on J-visas; concerned about the high numbers of non-degree seeking exchange students and loose practices to date
 - When engaged in on campus employment related to their academic major, must be endorsed through SEVIS as Academic Training, pre-approved by CIE, and well documented for institutional record keeping (we are out of compliance)
 - A positive: once DS-2019 form is signed by the incoming exchange visitor, they are “opting in” thus meeting GDPR
 - We must report major incidents involving Exchange Visitors (anyone with J1 visa) within 24 hours; need an internal policy
 - All visas are under increased scrutiny and every decision is a national security decision
 - **NEXT STEPS/SUGGESTIONS:**
 - CIE is making some internal modifications but other changes need to be broader and written into policy
 - Conversation with Admissions about dual-degree programs
 - CIE must be the only office that issues J-1 visa support documentation
- NOTE: Only U.S. Embassies and Consulates can issue US visas. Sponsoring institutions provide the required documentation, along with the admission letters, visa application instructions and visa interview tips to ensure successful outcomes; currently, it is unclear whether GSIA or CIE has this responsibility
- Meeting J-visa requirements for oversight will require campus-wide discussion/communication
 - Individuals across campus should not be suggesting visa types because errors are often made; visitors may spend months working on approval for a visa only to find out the visa type is incorrect
 - Visa-specific questions need to be routed through CIE and/or HR
 - A resident campus expert approach mirrors best practices across the country (someone either in HR or CIE who has the training and knowledge to provide initial information and consultations related to permanent residency, H1B process, O, A and other non-student visa types).

Travel Ban Update – Olga

- Travel ban continues from initial January 2017 ruling; limitations applied by country and by visa type/immigrant intent
- Iran is the most affected country followed by Libya
- Dept of State will grant visas for student purposes
- Any country may be added to this ban at any time
- Adding higher entry scrutiny and tracking
- Reinforced DUI policy and visa revocation practice
- Visa validity reciprocity
- June 2018: Excludes Chad, Sudan, Iraq
- F and J visas are okay although applicants may experience enforced screenings and strict vetting
- ACTION: Need a plan for how to support students and identification of UNC’s position on the ban; Larry will contact Nate Haas; Nancy and Larry will work on a letter

Student Complaints – Tuck

- Committee received a two week extension on the proposal for how to track/define/report student complaints; should have the report done by mid-July
- Report is emphasizing the need for an ombudsman

 **Next Meeting: July 26, 2018 (10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) Carter Hall 4th Floor Board Room.**