

NAFSA – Agency Engagement Update

Regulatory Practice

Fourth Quarter 2010

In support of NAFSA Strategic Plan Goal 1.9 – *Maintain NAFSA as an indispensable source of guidance to U.S. government agencies in forming regulations and practice policies affecting student and scholar mobility* – NAFSA staff and member-leaders regularly engage with federal agencies. The following are highlights of these engagements for the period September – December, 2010.

NAFSA Comments on SEVP Policy Guidance 1004-10 - Establishing and Maintaining Data Integrity in F and M Nonimmigrant Information

NAFSA submitted to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) [comments](#) about SEVP's October 27, 2010 [Policy Guidance 1004-10](#) – *Establishing and Maintaining Data Integrity in F and M Nonimmigrant Information*. In preparing these comments and the others mentioned here, NAFSA sought your input through IssueNet, and NAFSA staff received invaluable input from the ISS-RP Student Subcommittee.

NAFSA Comments on SEVP Policy Guidance 1004-07 – DSO Reporting Tips

NAFSA submitted to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) [comments](#) about SEVP's October 27, 2010 [SEVP Policy Guidance 1004-07](#) – *DSO Reporting Tips*.

NAFSA Comments on SEVP Policy Guidance 1004-06 – Emergent Circumstances Q&A

NAFSA submitted to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) [comments](#) about SEVP's September 17, 2010 [SEVP Policy Guidance 1004-06](#) – *Emergent Circumstances Q & A*.

NAFSA Participates in USCIS Texas Service Center Stakeholders Meeting and Tour of Records Facility and "Dallas Lockbox"

NAFSA staff and members of the ISS-RP Regulatory Ombud Subcommittee attended the fall U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Texas Service Center (TSC) Stakeholders Meeting and tours of the Records Center and "Dallas Lockbox." A summary of the meeting, eight presentations offered by TSC staff, and TSC contact information were posted on the [NAFSA web site](#).

NAFSA Participates in USCIS California Service Center Stakeholders' Meeting

Members of ISS-RP attended the fall U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) California Service Center Stakeholders' Meeting and provided a [summary](#) for the NAFSA web site.

NAFSA Participates in USCIS Vermont Service Center Stakeholder Conference

NAFSA staff and members of the ISS-RP Regulatory Ombud Subcommittee participated in the fall U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Vermont Service Center (VSC) Stakeholder Conference. A ["Q & A"](#) prepared by VSC pursuant to the meeting was posted on the NAFSA web site.

NAFSA Conducts Liaison with Department of State

On September 15, 2010, NAFSA staff and members of the ISS-RP Travel Subcommittee conducted a liaison call with the Department of State Visa Office. Topics addressed included naming conventions, consular emails to students, the disappearance of MANTIS clearance validity guidance, security clearance processing times, Kentucky Consular Center audit of nonimmigrant visa petitions, proposed revisions to the DS-160, and the NAFSA 2011 Annual Conference. A [summary](#) was posted on the NAFSA web site.

NAFSA Conducts Liaison with Customs and Border Protection

NAFSA re-established liaison with U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Headquarters, and NAFSA staff and members of the ISS-RP Travel Subcommittee conducted a liaison call with CBP on September 17, 2010. Topics addressed included visa validity after a break in studies, cap-gap travel guidance, DHS-TRIP guidance, updating port of entry officials about the new I-515A address, and the NAFSA 2011 Annual Conference. A [summary](#) was posted on the NAFSA web site.

NAFSA Participates in Department of Labor Stakeholder Meeting

NAFSA staff and member-leaders participated in the fall Department of Labor (DOL) Stakeholder Meeting. DOL provided answers to a number of NAFSA's questions concerning DOL processes and current issues that NAFSA members are experiencing. The topics of discussion included prevailing wage determinations and redeterminations, LCAs, labor certification applications, and several "special handling" issues. In developing the questions submitted to DOL, NAFSA sought your input through IssueNet and the ISCA discussion forum, and NAFSA staff received invaluable input from the ISS-RP Scholar Subcommittee. A [summary](#) of the meeting was posted on the NAFSA web site.

NAFSA Works to Postpone Implementation of New I-129 Export Control Attestation

In mid-December NAFSA staff met with the Chief and the Deputy Chief of the USCIS Office of Public Engagement (OPE) and discussed, among other issues, the new [export control attestation](#) on USCIS Form I-129. NAFSA then worked with AILA and other associations through OPE to postpone implementation of the attestation, providing petitioners additional time to create the necessary processes for making such an attestation.

NAFSA Meets with SEVP and CTCEU

NAFSA staff recently met with officials from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and the Counterterrorism and Criminal Exploitation Unit (CTCEU) to discuss [news](#) mentioned by SEVP officials at NAFSA regional conferences and to learn more about the CTCEU and its [outreach initiatives](#) mentioned at several NAFSA regional conferences.

NAFSA Engages USCIS SCOPS Concerning H-1B Processing Times

Throughout September NAFSA engaged in informal liaison with U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Service Center Operations (SCOPs) and the CIS Ombudsman's Office to relay members' concerns about the slow-down in H-1B processing at California Service Center (CSC) and the apparent inconsistency between the actual processing times and the processing times posted on CSC's web site. Through IssueNet and the ISCA discussion

forum NAFSA collected from members an extensive list of petitions that had not been processed in the stated processing time and provided these to SCOPS. The processing times on CSC's web site were soon updated and have remained more accurate, and CSC seems to be processing petitions much more quickly.

NAFSA Engages SEVP Concerning VeriSign Problem

On October 10, 2010 VeriSign migrated its [public root certification authorities](#) for digital IDs for secure e-mail certificates from 1024-bit RSA keys to 2048-bit RSA keys. NAFSA engaged in informal liaison with SEVP concerning SEVIS interface problems members were experiencing due to the new standard, and [SEVP updated SEVIS](#) with the new root certificates and instructed the Help Desk to verify with some users resolution of the problems that had been reported.

NAFSA Staff Participates in Several USCIS National Engagements

NAFSA staff participated in several teleconferences, webinars, and listening sessions offered by U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), including the November 22, 2010 teleconference on Form I-912 (fee waiver request), the November 2, 2010 stakeholder meeting to discuss Form I-9 (employment eligibility verification), the October 21, 2010 Online Citizenship Resource Webinar, the October 20, 2010 listening session with the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), the On October 4, 2010 and September 30, 2010 webinars on USCIS transformation, and the September 23, 2010 quarterly stakeholder teleconference with Director Mayorkas. As USCIS makes available executive summaries of these meetings, NAFSA provides links to them in *NAFSA News*.