KC-ISSS Updates from NAFSA's Annual Conference

NAFSA Region VI
Indiana State Meeting
Earlham College
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Presenters

Regulatory Ombuds in Region VI

Joanna Snyder, Indiana University-Bloomington
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SEVIS II

- "Previsualiation" ended in April 2011
- Now in "Visualization" phase
- IOC now "unofficially" projected for November 2013
- SEVIS II Transition conference beng held in Washington, DC August 1-5, 2011

    - Invitations went to specific schools in order to have a cross-section of all types and geographic locations

    -Spots not filled by invitees may be re-allocated to others who request invitation

    -SEVP covers travel and associated costs

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SEVIS II (cont.)

- Expanded record correction options
- DSO can generate Help Desk ticket within SEVIS
- Can enter—and then search by—campus ID numbers
- No paper to carry through POE
- No more I-515
- Will rely on "Red light, Yellow light, Green light" admissibility indicators
- Students still enter own basic biographical information
- Errors can be corrected at consulates
    -DSO/ARO receives notification of any corrections made
- DSO/ARO may also request a correction to student biographical information
    -Unclear how this would specifically

SEVIS II (cont.)

• SEVIS II will have ability to notify students of changes in record and approaching critical deadlines by email or text
• Ability to report students who are ABD
  -Optional but not required
• Expanded program and financial information from I-17
• Joint agency policy on naming conventions coming out "soon"

J-1 Functionality
• 212(e) indicators within the record
  -Will take into account funding sources and Skills List
  -Will include waiver indicators
• EV can request actions/benefits through SEVIS*
• May create templates for record creation*

*Not clear if this will apply to F-1 records as well)

USCIS Transformation

USCIS is transitioning to electronic filing
- Agency wide (eventually)
- Adjudication will still take place at service centers with same geographic jurisdictions
- Optional-may still file using paper applications for now
- Lockboxes will continue to operate

USCIS Transformation (cont.)

- Users will be assigned an IIN
- May select form type from drop-down menu
- Only relevant fields will appear in user interface

USCIS Transformation (cont.)

- Supporting documents -- copies of I-20's, passports, I-94 cards, etc. – may be uploaded
- Documents uploaded for one application will be available for all applications filed by same individual based on IIN
- May return to account to change information

USCIS Transformation (cont.)

- One system for all involved—applicant, adjudicators, officers, etc.
- Attorneys may have own accounts (IIN-based) and clients will grant access through an electronic G-28
- Universities will have organizational accounts to facilitate assistance with student and scholar applications

USCIS Transformation (cont.)

- Payment mechanism being designed to accept credit card payments and electronic checks/ACH
- Being implemented in 3 phases
  - Phase I: December 2011; I-539
  - Phase II: July 2012; I-765 + other forms
  - Phase III: Date TBD; forms TBD

Advisor's Manual 2.0

- "Soft release" on Friday evening, May 27

    -Basically a "live beta test" so still working through a few login and accessibility issues

- New server

- Opens live, so no loading/waiting

- Chapters and sections printable and convertible to pdf

- Can email sections to other subscribers from within manual

Advisor's Manual 2.0 (cont.)

- Improved search function
- Notes
  - -Individual notes
  - -Group notes
- Licenses transferrable
- Can set home page
- Bookmarks

J-1 Updates

- Exchange Visitor Program has a new web site: J1visa.state.gov

   - Regulations, plain-language resources for EV's, potential EV's, sponsors, hosts, etc.

- Subpart A revisions are expected prior to SEVIS II IOC

- Subpart A revisions will therefore not incorporate SEVIS II provisions

- $2700 fee for designation/re-designation

- $233 fee for reinstatement

J-1 Updates

• EVP has conducted 21 site visits so far; concerns include

    -Inappropriate use of categories

    -Failure to update addresses

■ Next set of site visits likely late fall 2011 or early 2012

H-1B Updates

- USCIS currently processing cap exempt cases received 04.08.2011

- Cap Update:
  - 13,000 cap-subject petitions
  - 9,000 master's degree & higher petitions

- SCOPS reports RFE templates are being standardized – hope for more consistency!

- PWD issues – some inconsistencies with codes, wage levels, etc.
  - Report issues in IssueNet

Other Updates

• NSEERS ended as of April 28, 2011

• SSR now available for Libyans who were legally present in the US on February 1, 2011

   -ESL students are eligible

Thank you!

Questions?