

## CISS Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2024 | 11:00 AM

**Chair:** Open

**Vice Chair:** Open

**Member at Large:** Kathleen Kirk, Georgia Tech

**Member at Large:** Christine Shaw, Columbus State

**Call to Order & Introductions** – Kathleen Kirk

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** – Kathleen Kirk

### Introductions

**Call for Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair & Candidate Introductions** – Kathleen Kirk

- Overview of position duties provided:  
[https://www.usg.edu/international\\_education/assets/international\\_education/documents/committees/ByLawsUpdated1.28.22.pdf](https://www.usg.edu/international_education/assets/international_education/documents/committees/ByLawsUpdated1.28.22.pdf)
- Kathleen Kirk, Georgia Tech, was nominated for the Chair position. This was voted on and, having a quorum, the motion was passed for Kate to become Chair. This means her Member at Large position is now open.
- Christine Shaw, Columbus State University, was nominated for the Vice Chair position. This was voted on and, having a quorum, the motion was passed for Christine to become Vice Chair. This means her Member at Large position is now open.
  - Note that Scott Bleiweis (Georgia Southern) was also nominated, but he declined the nomination.

### Student- and Scholar Focused Discussions

- **Spring 2024 trends**  
**Health Insurance** – It was asked how these costs are determined, how contracts are reviewed, and who can be contacted for more information about this process. Previously, there was a system review committee that included CISS and SCIE representatives who would look at costs and the student populations represented to determine the fees. More about insurance is under the update from Tammy.
- **Open discussion**  
**Supporting students with financial difficulties:**  
A member asked for input on how students with financial difficulties can be assisted, such as students who are dropped from classes for non-payment. Suggestions included: payment plans, tuition waivers that are set aside for such issues, and looking into emergency funds from IIE. These options had either already been exhausted or were not available in this instance.  
**Supporting international students in crisis:**  
It was asked how different institutions mobilize efforts to support international students in crisis and who/which departments are involved on each campus. Suggestions included:

- Sending a 'care crisis' e-card to students from the countries in crisis that outlines support resources available on campus.
- International offices coordinate with Student Affairs, Counseling Services, Dean of Students, etc., depending on the international student population.

- **USG Restructuring & Advocacy**

USG's International Education area was recently moved under the Academic Affairs Division. The goal is for international education to have greater prominence within academic efforts across the system. Tammy Rosner's position will remain the same in terms of international student and scholar services support.

Input was also asked on how international students and scholars can be better supported and how to get the word out about their value in the state. Committee members discussed different ideas, like how SCIE members from larger institutions could act as mentors to smaller USG institutions around needs and trends. We also discussed the idea of meeting more regularly regarding trends and issues that we would like to advocate for.

Tammy gave updates on the following:

- **USG Strategic Enrollment Plan** – Once this is implemented, she will suggest how to move forward as a system. Each institution and leadership will decide on how they will proceed with this Plan.
- **Insurance Concerns** – She noted the concerns and will make sure international voices are stronger in this area. It was asked how institutions make themselves heard by the committee in charge of selecting insurance coverage. SHIP is currently under HR (specifically, Karen Elliott and BeNedra Cleveland). Tammy indicated that each campus has a SHIP point of contact, which is listed on the USG website. When that document was checked during this meeting, it was determined that the points of contact are not all correct. Tammy will check on updating this information. Also, there will be a SHIP meeting on 8 February. She will find out how representatives from institutions can take part in this meeting.
- **Bridge USA Program** – USG does not have currently enough J scholars to continue this program, which will need to be renewed in 2025. Tammy asked institutions to let her know if their campus will use the USG J program, otherwise it will not be feasible to continue it.
- **Advocacy Issues** – Tammy asked that this be added as the first agenda item for the next meeting.

#### Question from the Chat

- What is an SAAG? These are approved attorneys for international students.

## **Announcements**

- **Scott Bleiweis** – He is leaving Georgia to take a position at Florida State in their ISSS office! This means the positions he held in NAFSA Region VII and GAIE will be open.
- **GAIE Conference** – March 4-6, 2024
- **NAFSA Annual Conference** – May 28-31, 2024
- **NAFSA Region VII Conference** – November 11-14, 2024
- **Next CISS meeting** – September 27, 2024 (Two at-large positions open)
- **CBP POE Tour** – February 27, 2024
- **Social Security Administration Virtual Presentation** – They will give an update on international student and scholar issues and answer pre-submitted questions.