

**BA-PIER Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2016**

Skyline College
3300 College Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066

1. Welcome

- a. Tammy Robinson, EdD, Interim Dean of Global Learning, Skyline College
 - i. International Student Programs
 - ii. Study Abroad
 - iii. Center for International Trade & Development
 - iv. African Diaspora Program
 - v. Bay Area Entrepreneurial Center (incubator in downtown San Bruno)
 - vi. Hip Hop Education Program & African American Student Support Svcs
- b. Participants
 - i. Michael Mrache, BA-PIER Chair, Director Int'l Program & Retraining Programs, Veteran Programs, UC Santa Cruz Silicon Valley Campus
 - ii. Yuri Goda, SMCCD Community & Corporate Education, Program Coordinator Silicon Valley IEP
 - iii. Derrick Banks, SMCCD Community & Corporate Education, Director of Silicon Valley IEP
 - iv. Jonathan Bissell, SMCCD Community & Corporate Education, Director
 - v. Marisa Thigpen, Skyline College, Program Services Coordinator, Learning Communities & Academic Support Learning Technology
 - vi. Tracey Ward, Mission College, Supervisor International Program and IEP, Region 12 Northern Region Team, Membership & Mentorship Coordinator, BA-PIER Communications Coordinator
 - vii. Irene Tieh, USA College Connection (focus on Chinese student support svcs chinesestudents.com for educators)
 - viii. Chikako Walker, Skyline College, Program Coordinator, International Program
 - ix. Joseph Ng, De Anza College, Program Supervisor
 - x. Stacey Carrasco, Canada College, Program Coordinator
 - xi. Ruth Kirby, Language Pacifica
 - xii. Laurie Cheatham, Solano College, NAFSA Region 12 Northern CA Region
 - xiii. Jesse Carlisle, IEP SF Intrax/Stafford House
 - xiv. Diane Johansen, UC Santa Cruz Internship Coordinator, BA-PIER Treasurer
 - xv. Dolly Balangitao, Chabot College
 - xvi. Susan Sermeno, JFK University, Treasurer Region 12 Northern CA
 - xvii. Supinda Sirihekaphong, Canada College, Int'l Program Manager
 - xviii. Alicia Haley, UC Santa Cruz, SEVIS Coordinator BA-PIER Vice Chair
 - xix. Ray Porras, UC Santa Cruz Extension, International Student Advisor
 - xx. Kathy Harrington, UC Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley Campus, Int'l Advisor (OPT)

2. BA-PIER Business

- a. Treasurer Report \$1,206
- b. New members: Accept check or cash, what about new members who do not have check writing abilities
- c. BA-PIER funds in personal account because BA-PIER is not a registered nonprofit, need physical location
- d. Suggestion: What about every meeting bring \$5? Consideration: membership for life, not connected to school, personal membership
- e. Process: Sign up for Linked In and request BA-PIER membership, pay membership fee, Linked In Administrator will approve membership
- f. Benefit to joining BA-PIER Linked in: all announcements/discussion goes through Linked In.
- g. BA-PIER Website: New section: SEVP News
- h. Email Tracey Ward of job positions, library documents, events
- i. Use/ideas for funds, reimbursement for refreshments, professional development, honorariums

3. Announcements

- a. Region 12 Northern CA Regional NAFSA Conference, Napa Valley College, March 20-21
 - i. Early Registration ends March 7
 - ii. Sessions: SEVP Reps; Undocumented Student Support
 - iii. Keynote Speaker, Dr. Sandra Nichols, Anthropologist, Migration Expert
 - iv. Meet & Greet Wine Tasting, Sunday, March 20 (included in registration fee)
 - v. Yoga Session
- b. No SEVP rep for South Bay-Fresno (300 schools) yet, Novato-SF-East Bay Chris Lambert. SEVP may be changing the boundaries so reps have less schools.
- c. Lessons from Abroad Conference April 2, Skyline College for study abroad returnees, looking for exhibitors Saturday, April 2, contact sfbayarea@lessonsfromabroad.org
- d. October 2014 Policy Guidance from Study in the States regarding IEP (vacation eligibility, minimum 26 weeks), cannot combine conditional acceptance with IEP in I-20
- e. Adam Green, Esq, Lobbyist for NAFSA is open to attending future BA-PIER meetings, will be at SMCCD next Thursday, email banksd@smccd.edu if you would like to join.
- f. UC Santa Cruz Director of International Student Services position open
- g. March 31 SEVP through backlog of PDSO/DSO updates, should only take 10 days now.
- h. De Anza seeing terminated students being granted entry at SFO, Mission seeing initial students with incorrect POE info. **We need SEVP Rep** to report these issues. **Suggestion:** Should BA-PIER submit a letter to SEVP, points, over 300 schools in area?
- i. SEVIS Help Desk level 1 contract-worker; level 2 SEVIS employees.
- j. COS approval rates increasing, but should advise to apply 1-2 months after arrival, try emailing csc.schools@ice.dhs.gov to follow up.
- k. Mission College: 80% Vietnamese students cannot get visa appointments, having to defer I-20s, majority are IEP students. Applications increased from Vietnam.
- l. Reinstatements: 3-4 months
- m. SACM: Higher standards, IEP only 18 months, IELTS score need 6.0, cutting down IEP

4. Next Meeting Thursday, June 16, Venue Mission College Lambert, Green, Conference, Prof Dev