Student and Exchange Visitor Program Office

SEVIS Technical Conference Call with the Educational Community

Questions and Answers from Wednesday, October 25, 2006

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1. Federal Register Notice For Implementing 5-Year Maximum Duration For J Professors And Research Scholars

SEVIS 5.4, scheduled for implementation on November 3, 2006, will contain the changes necessary to implement the 5-year maximum duration for J professors and research scholars regulation that was published at 70 Fed. Reg. 28815 (May 19, 2005). The supplementary information preceding the rule in the Federal Register notice states that:

> This rule becomes effective on the later of June 20, 2005, or **the date upon which the Department of Homeland Security publishes a notice in the Federal Register** announcing that it has completed the technical computer updates to its electronic Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) that are necessary to implement this rule.

On what date is DHS planning to publish the Federal Register notice that will make this rule effective?

Response: The draft Federal Register Notice announcement is in ICE's Office of Policy and Planning awaiting further forwarding through DHS and publication. We have also prepared a SEVIS Broadcast to be used announcing the update and am pursing if we can broadcast the message in lieu of the FRN or in conjunction with a Notice.

2.   Confirmation That J Professor and Research Scholar Extensions Beyond 5 Years Will Only Be For G-7 Participants

We would like to confirm that extensions beyond the new maximum period of participation of 5 years for J professors and researchers will be available only to professors and researchers on DS-2019s issued by programs designated G-7.

RESPONSE: That is correct. Only exchange visitors in a G-7 program will be able to submit a request for an extension beyond the maximum duration of participation of 5 years. The link related to this functionality will no longer be available on the EV Information Screen for professors and research scholars if they are not in a G-7 program.

3.   Testing For SEVIS 5.4 Professors/Research Scholars 5-Year Functionality

Does SEVP plan to have any current SEVIS Exchange Visitor programs (schools and programs) test Release 5.4, or will the testing only be within SEVP?

Response: SEVP testing for this SEVIS 5.4 is currently underway within SEVP. SEVP has no plans for external testing at this time.

4.   Counting The Five-Year Period For J Professors/Research Scholars

Can SEVP or DOS/ECA comment on how EV programs will be able to count the five-year period in SEVIS?

Response: The count down of the five-year maximum duration of participation for research scholars and professors begins with the program begin date and ends 5 years later, provided that the sponsor does not end or terminate the exchange visitor's SEVIS record.

5.   SEVIS Reports For Exchange Visitors And Dependents

Members appreciate the DSO reports available for F-1 students and dependents. It would be useful to have similar reports for exchange visitors and dependents. For example, a report that includes the J's name, SEVIS ID, SEVIS status, J category, program start date and program end date would be very helpful. Is it possible that SEVP could make J reports available to RO/AROs?

Response: The Department of State is performing analysis on this issue and will provide an update at a later conference call.

6.   Difficulty Exporting SEVIS DSO Reports

Members are reporting difficulty exporting F-1 reports to Microsoft applications due to an extra space being inserted after the delimiter "^" in the text version of the reports. The extra space causes the Microsoft applications to read the SEVIS ID numbers incorrectly. Is it possible to have the extra space removed in the text version of these reports?

Response: We are currently examining all reporting SCRs in SEVIS and will review this issue for inclusion. The reporting SCRs have not yet been scheduled for a future release.

7. Log-On Screens Unclear For AROs In SEVIS RTI

A few AROs at IIE have indicated that now when they log on to SEVIS RTI they do not see the neatly formatted screens with the light and dark blue lines highlighting text, etc on the lists for example, they get a white screen with the text… not just for lists for EV information, etc. Actually from the very start when they have to agree that they have read and understand the notice, the text is not displayed in the same way any longer. Is DHS aware of this and is there any way to fix it; are the AROs doing something incorrectly?

Response: On Friday, October 13th, configuration changes were made to the SEVIS servers that should have resolved these issues. If you continue to see the incorrect displays, please contact the SEVIS Help Desk at 800-892-4829.

8. Availability of J-1 Skills List in SEVIS

Has there been any discussion about incorporating the J-1 Skills List into SEVIS? I can provide more detail if needed. But I understand that it's not part of SEVIS and as a result DS 2019s issued through SEVIS cannot reflect students who are subject to 212e because of the Skills List.

RESPONSE: Yes, there has been on-going discussion on this topic within the Department.