

MEMORANDUM

TO: NALP Executive Board

FROM: Shujun Tian, NALP International & Advanced Degree Section Chair

DATE: March 16, 2022

RE: NALP International & Advanced Degree Section Board Report

Please find below a report of the International & Advanced Degree Section's activities since the last Board Report in February.

Section Call

We held a Section call on February 10, 2022 that focused on spring programming ideas and a legal market update and overview for international attorneys. Vice chairs were asked to give an update on any developments for their work groups, which are outlined below.

Work Group Update

Current vice chairs:

- *AEC/Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning: Shannon Kahn, UC Berkeley
- *Bar Exam Issues: Amy Kimmel, UC Hastings
- *Legislative Monitoring: Sunita Iyer, Georgetown Law
- LLM/Legal Masters Collaboration: Sara Marshall, William and Mary
- *Member Relations: Megan Avellana, Ohio State
- Knowledge Management: Jabrina Robinson, Duke; Sarah Gruzgas, USC; Ana Maria Knapp, Hogan Lovells

More detailed updates for the asterisked work groups are included below.

After discussions with Mike Ende in his capacity as Board liaison, I am recommending that we eliminate or table the LLM/Legal Masters Collaboration work group, due to lack of pressing/engaging issues regarding the covered topic.

AEC/Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning

After this submission cycle, Shannon Kahn, vice chair of this work group, is stepping down because her role at UC Berkeley no longer involves working with international students. We will hold a brainstorming session on Thursday, March 31 to discuss RFPs for next year's AEC in Vancouver. I will identify interested vice chairs from the Section and Shannon will work with a new vice chair to transition the role going into this 2022-2023 year.

Bar Exam Issues

The work group is continuing to monitor the issue of international students whose foreign education included an online component and how the New York BOLE handles waiver requests.

Legislative Monitoring Update

The work group continues to monitor federal legislative and regulatory guidance related to international students, some highlights of which have been outlined below.

- No difficulty with students securing F-1 or other student visas and starting their program in the U.S. in person on time
- No recent changes to F-1 or J-1 visas but there are proposals to increase fees for F-1 visa (51% increase) and for applying for Optional Practical Training work authorization, which the work group is monitoring.
- OPT program is being expanded to include 22 new fields of study, including STEM fields that qualify for STEM OPT which allows for 3 years of post-grad work, as compared with the customary one year.

Membership Update

The following new members have recently joined our Section:

Denise Durbin (University of Cincinnati College of Law)

Each new member is sent an e-mail to welcome them to the Section, which includes information about getting involved by submitting Bulletin articles, conferences RFPs or being part of work groups. Members also receive NALP's recently-updated LLM advisor manual.

Proposed Programming for 2022-2023

Members discussed a variety of programming ideas for our Section meetings, as well as informational webinars and other events we can incorporate into our programming for this upcoming year. Ideas included:

1. Networking breakouts.
2. Invite counterpart advisors in Europe to share their advising thoughts and expertise.
3. Invite Canadian section members before the Vancouver annual conference to ask questions and network.
4. Invite career people at business schools to discuss their advising approach and learn about recruiting and interviewing trends.
5. Mini session with coaching specialist, to learn about coaching in a cross cultural context and applying coaching principles to international students.
6. Invite employers to come give overviews of the recruiting processes.

7. Invite professional associations like the International Associate of Privacy Professionals to give overview of their offerings for students.

Next Steps

We will hold in a meeting at the Annual Education Conference for all members attending in person. I will ask Sunita Iyer, vice chair, to chair that meeting in my absence. We will follow up with a virtual meeting to include all members who were unable to travel to New Orleans.

In the meantime, I will identify potential Section members who might be interested in taking on a leadership role to take over our vacant vice chair positions and to assist me in implementing our programming ideas, to work toward a seamless transition process to a new Section chair for 2023-2024.