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Sent: Monday, April 28, 2008 3:21 PM
To: 'Fred Lawrence'; 'Jim Scott'; 'Mary Futrell'; 'Mike Brown'; 'Peg Barratt'; 'Roger Whitaker'; 'Ruth Katz'; 'Susan Phillips'; 'Tim Tong'
Cc: Don Lehman; Carol Sigelman; Joe Knop; Bob Chernak; Fred Siegel; Donna Scarboro; Kathy Napper; Kristin Williams; Marva Gumbs
Subject: Federal Regulation Changes & Implications for GW International Students
Attachments: Info for GW Faculty & Staff (2008-04-28, JGL).pdf

Good afternoon. I would appreciate it if you would forward this message and the attached file to the faculty and staff in your school who work most closely with GW international students, particularly those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The attached document, which can also be found on the International Services Office (ISO) web site at [Information for GW Faculty and Staff](#), addresses the following topics:

1. Recent changes in federal regulations on international student employment after completion of studies
2. The implications of the regulation changes for GW faculty and staff
3. The regulation changes and the federal SEVIS audit now taking place at GW

For your convenience, an Executive Summary is offered below. Thank you for your continuing support and assistance.

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Executive Summary

Introduction. New regulations of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) permit international students in F-1 immigration status to be employed in the U.S. after completion of studies for a significantly longer period of time, and the regulations give preference to students who have completed degree programs in certain designated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Implications for Admissions. These changes may result in inquiries from prospective students regarding whether specific GW STEM programs qualify for the new employment benefits, with these students perhaps gravitating to programs that qualify and deciding not to apply for admission to programs that do not qualify.

Implications for STEM Programs. Some students currently enrolled in STEM fields that are not recognized by DHS for the special employment benefits are questioning whether their major fields are properly classified under the U.S. Department of Education *Classification of Instructional Programs* (CIP). Working with Academic Affairs and Institutional Research, we have discovered that some programs may not be classified

as accurately as might be appropriate, sometimes because the programs are interdisciplinary or have changed over time. Guidance is offered in the attached document on how department chairs and program directors might, with dean's approval, address such situations.

Implications for Career Services. The regulation changes make all F-1 international students more viable candidates to prospective employers, and graduates in certain STEM fields especially viable. Prospective employers may wish to know which GW STEM programs are recognized by DHS for the new employment benefits, and international students may wish to know which employers participate in the federal E-Verify employment eligibility verification program, as employer participation in E-Verify is one of the requirements for the extended employment of STEM graduates.

Implications for Federal Compliance. New university reporting responsibilities are included in the regulations and the period of expected compliance has been more than doubled from 12 to 29 months after graduation. The current federal audit taking place of GW SEVIS records is intended to emphasize the importance the federal government places upon schools maintaining contact with and reporting on their international student graduates who remain in the U.S. for OPT employment. The GW International Services Office is grateful for the cooperation of those who have been called upon to assist us with this audit. With the cooperation of others, we are currently developing plans to insure that GW is fully compliant with these new requirements.