TO: International Students & Scholars at UGA

FROM: Office of International Student, Scholar & Immigration Services (ISSIS)

RE: USCIS ELIS Filing Program, and Submission of Form I-20 or DS-2019 in support of the I-539 Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status.

DATE: June 12, 2012

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is in the process of implementing a new electronic filing system for certain government applications. The system is called “ELIS” (Electronic Immigration System). Currently, ELIS accepts only I-539 applications. These are applications to extend or change non-immigrant status in the U.S., or for F-1 students to apply for reinstatement.

Previously, when filing an I-539 application, international students and scholars were required to send in the original signed I-20 or DS-2019 form. This is no longer required. When filing an I-539 application, whether visa paper or via ELIS, USCIS will now accept a photocopy of a valid and signed Form I-20 or DS-2019.

In order to ensure correct process during this transition, please include with your I-539 application a copy of the attached government policy memo.

Because they are no longer requiring the original I-20 form or DS-2019 form, USCIS will no longer return the Form I-20 or DS-2019 to you after the Form I-539 has been approved. Once your change of status or reinstatement is approved, you will not have a stamped approved I-20 form or DS-2019 form. This is acceptable under the new procedures.

If you wish to get a USCIS stamp on your Form I-20 or DS-2019, you can make an appointment online through InfoPass: https://infopass.uscis.gov/info_lang.php?sel_lang=en and take your form to the local
USCIS Office (in Atlanta). This is a service that the local field offices can perform **ONLY** until September 2012.

Further information concerning USCIS ELIS can be found: [http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4eaa169ccc477310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=4eaa169ccc477310VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=68439c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD)

If you have questions about a change of status application, extension of stay application, or an F-1 reinstatement application, please contact your ISSIS immigration advisor at: [issis@uga.edu](mailto:issis@uga.edu), or by phone at: 706 542-2900.