



## Academic Council

June 11, 2013

1:00-4:00pm

Department of Higher Education

1560 Broadway -Suite 1600 - Denver, CO 80202

Call-in Number: 1-877-820-7831; Access code: 215368#

## Minutes

### 1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Geri Anderson (CCCS), Jon Bellum (CSU-Global Camus); Kathleen Bollard (CU System), Steve Werman and Carol Futhey (CMU), Vicki Golich (MSU Denver), Diane Hegeman (CCCS), Rick Miranda (CSU), David Moon for Mary Coussons-Read (UCCS), and Donna Norwood (Aims), and Anne Bentz for Robbyn Wacker (UNC).

### 2. Approval of Last Meeting's Notes [see handout: 2013-04-09 - NOTES-AC]

Approved.

### 3. Personnel changes at DHE

### 4. State Approval of Certificates (and other programs?) & Title IV Eligibility

- a. The Department has received several requests to provide letters stating an institution's certificate programs are approved by the state to qualify for Title IV Student Financial Aid. However, per CCHE Policy I, V, the Commission does not approve certificate programs.
- b. Presumably, the request is related to adding new programs for Title IV eligibility and gainful employment requirements, which references state approval to offer programs. [see handout: *Gainful Employment-Requirements for Adding New Educational Programs*]
- c. Also, one institution would like its graduate certificates listed separately in SURDS with their own CIPs, presumably to be able to report enrollment and completion.
- d. DHE's concern was that entering a program in SURDS presumes state approval of the program and CCHE does not approve certificate programs. This concern came from the unofficial position of Colorado Attorney Generals' Office:
  - [No process for CCHE to approve certificates] raises the possibility of consumer protection problems if an employer were to try and verify a "certificate" that is neither regulated nor sanctioned by the state and may not be recorded by the institution (such as those professors print off on their own).
- e. Points for discussion:

- i. Do academic programs need letters of state approval (at least from this state agency) for Title IV Student Financial Aid eligibility? If a letter of state approval is needed, should it more appropriately come from the licensing agency (CDE, DORA)? **Academic Council agreed “No, it should come from DHE/CCHE.”** You are encouraged to discuss this with your Title IV representative.

**AC agreed it would be helpful to have a letter from DHE (either Asst. Deputy Director AA or Executive Director) stating to accrediting agencies like HLC, that Colorado institutions’ academic programs (including certificates) either are approved by CCHE or that their authority to offer them comes from the Colorado General Assembly, in the form of statutory role and mission.**

- ii. Since all public institutions operate under a performance contract, and 23-5-129(6)(b), C.R.S., states that institutions “Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the [commission],” except for a review to ensure a program’s fit with “the institution's statutory role and mission,” does that mean each institution’s statutory role and mission, which authorizes it to operate education programs, is itself “the approval?”

**Discussed that statutory role and mission seems to be an approval, per 23-5-129(6)(b) and that DHE checks for fit and CCHE gives final approval. Also discussed that the agenda item for approval of new degree programs might contain only a statement in regards to fit with statutory role and mission and any information on duplication, evidence of need, and budget could go in an appendix to the agenda item. Note: Ian started doing agenda items this way after this meeting.**

- iii. Private institutions have their academic programs entered into SURDS and those programs are neither reviewed nor approved by the Department or CCHE. Thus, should entry of a program into SURDS presume any sort of “approval” by CCHE?

**Academic Council agreed, “No.” The function of SURDS is to track who offers what academic programs, enrollment, completion, and etc. Need to discuss how to enter standalone certificates at 4-year institutions in SURDS. Standalone certificates offered by schools with 2-year statutory roles and missions are already entered into SURDS. Agreed it’s important that 4-year schools be able to report completion in their graduate certificate programs for state accountability and performance.**

- iv. What revisions to CCHE Policy I, V would make the most sense? Are there instances where Department staff can/should “make the call” and that don’t necessitate Commission action, such as with modifications to programs? Should certificates be added? [see handout: *i-partv\_draft\_revision\_2013-06-11*]

**DHE staff will work on these draft revisions and internal procedures to accompany them.**

5. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement update [see handout: *National\_Commission\_Final\_Report*]

- The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a new initiative designed to safeguard distance-learning students and provide them with greater access to online courses, as well as to protect state and institutional interests.
- The recently released report and recommendations of the National Commission on the Regulation of Postsecondary Education is now available as a PDF at [www.wiche.edu/sara](http://www.wiche.edu/sara). The report will serve as the consensus document as implementation of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement proceeds throughout the U.S.
- **WICHE awaiting approval of grant proposal to Lumina**
- **WICHE poised to begin staff recruitment and to seek nominations for the nationwide coordinating board as soon as funding is approved**
- **Each regional compact with hire staff and form regional SARA steering committees in July.**

## Major Deliverables, Responsible Entities, and Due Dates:

- Selection of the national SARA executive director and members of the National Coordinating Board by the interim collaborative committee by September 30, 2013.
- Convening regional forums by each of the compacts to help states, institutions, and state regulators better understand the SARA implementation steps by October 1, 2013.
- Adoption of a business plan and bylaws for the National Coordinating Board by November 1, 2013; national SARA staff and consultants develop the plan and bylaws for board approval.
- Presentation of the business plan and MOU's for signature by each of the regional SARA entities by November 1, 2013; national SARA staff will develop these documents.
- Acceptance of the signed MOU's for each of the regional SARA entities by the National Coordinating Board by December 31, 2013.
- Development of a comprehensive strategic communication plan to inform key constituencies of the availability and benefits of SARA and targeted outreach strategies by November 1, 2013 and phased deliverables through June 30, 2014. The national SARA staff, consultants, and the regional SARA staffs will develop the plan for approval by the national board.
- Acceptance of state applications for SARA membership by the regional SARA entities beginning January 1, 2014 and ongoing. The regional SARA staff will disseminate and review the applications for presentation to each respective regional steering committee.
- Presentation of semi-annual reports of the national and regional SARA entities, due January 15, 2014 and July 15, 2014, describing progress to date on all deliverables, progress toward performance metrics, and financial reporting to date.
- Presentation of annual reports and financial reports thereafter until completion of grant, due July 15 of subsequent years.

### 6. National Student Clearinghouse Data

- On May 3, 2013, Ian sent a query on institutions sharing National Student Clearinghouse data with one another. You were asked:
- Does your institution use this data source?
  - Yes: ASU, CCCS, CMC, CSU, FLC, MSU Denver, WSCU, **Aims, CU System, UNC**
- If so, should we consider sharing the data (in some summary form) with one another?
  - Yes: ASU, CCCS (# of transfer by College and top transfer destination; could be used to study mobility), CMC, CSU, FLC, MSU Denver, WSCU

AC agreed this should now go to the Data Advisory Group (DAG) to make it happen. Beth Bean responded,

Happy to add the NSC data discussion to our next DAG meeting. And just to let you know we have a contract at the state level. We are allowed to share with IHEs but only in a limited format. For example, we could let you know a Y/N if one of your applicants was enrolled at another 2 or 4 year institution, whether the IHE was in-state or out-of-state, and the public or private status. However, I don't believe we could share the name of the IHE enrolled or state. The school contracts might have different data sharing restrictions and this would be good for all of us to understand. Our next meeting isn't until August.

AC notes its interest is more in the statistics of where students are going rather than in following individuals.

### 7. Communication from WICHE

- Western Academic Leadership Forum (<http://www.wiche.edu/forum>)
  - "We'd love to have more provosts from Colorado participating in the Forum."
  - The presentations from the Forum meeting, April 24-26, 2013 in San Diego are available online at <http://www.wiche.edu/forum/meetings/annual2013/presentations>
- Interstate Passport Initiative (<http://www.wiche.edu/passport/pilotproject>)

- “We plan to pursue funding to expand our efforts and would be delighted to have Colorado involved. Let’s stay in touch over the next couple of months as we begin to work on the proposal for Phase II.”
  - Phase I: Twenty-three institutions in five WICHE states—California, Hawaii, North Dakota, Oregon, and Utah— are participating in the pilot. During this phase we have tested out the application process as well as the process for developing the Passport Learning Outcomes and Proficiency Criteria for three lower-division areas (oral communication, written communication, and quantitative literacy).
  - Academic Leaders Toolkit (<http://alt.wiche.edu/>)
    - “Contributions would be most appreciated.”
8. Recent CCHE Actions of Interest (since April 2013)
- a. Proposal to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement at Fort Lewis College
  - b. Proposal to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement at University of Colorado Boulder
  - c. Proposal to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement at University of Colorado - Colorado Springs
  - d. Approval of gtPathways Courses
  - e. Request for Authorization to Offer Supplemental Academic Instruction From Metropolitan State University of Denver
  - f. COF Eligibility for Extend Studies Programs for FY2014 (June 7 meeting)
  - g. Approval of Master of Information Technology Management (MITM) at CSU-Global Campus (June 7 meeting)
  - h. Waivers from gtPathways for Baccalaureate Programs That Have Additional Requirements (June 7 meeting) **Advisors need to be aware that not every bachelor degree contains gtPathways.**
  - i. Institution of Logistical Management – Request for Provisional Authorization (June 7 meeting)
9. Other Business?
- a. **Reverse Transfer. DHE will be sending out applications for funding for institutions to implement reverse transfer. The application will be sent out to chief of student services officers and are due to [sierra.fleenor@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:sierra.fleenor@dhe.state.co.us) by July 24, 2013.**