



**Steering Committee for the Oversight of
HLC and Legislative Academic Compliance**

Minutes

April 25, 2019 | 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | Campus Commons 2105

- ✚ **Members Present:** Charlie Couch, Marty Somero, Olga Baron, Linda Black, Dallas Everhart, Lisa Grimes, Larry Loften, Rachel Walton
Members Absent: Kim Black, Sean Broghammer, Anne Toewe, Gardiner Tucker
Also Present: Jimmy Henderson (Associate Athletic Director for Academic Success)

- ✚ **Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2019 - approved**

- ✚ **Chairs' Report**
 - Introduce Jimmy Henderson, Associate Athletic Director for Academic Success
 - Jimmy will be on the committee going forward
 - Discussed including Dana Kohler or Whitney Bonner to keep Admissions engaged
 - Discussed reaching out to Stephanie Torrez, AVP for Student Success to join committee

- ✚ **Pre-Programs – Marty**
 - “Seeking”
 - There has been work going on to address this subject
 - Financial aid problem
 - Student completes a prescribed set of courses to get into a program (such as nursing or business)
 - If complete courses and get into program – no problem
 - If complete courses and don't meet criteria – no problem
 - If complete courses, meet criteria, and don't get in for other reasons (i.e., capacity), then student is considered to have never been a degree seeking student and should have never been given financial aid and institution is required to pay it back
 - This is a big problem in nursing
 - Many more qualified students than program can accommodate
 - Now that we know about the problem, how do we handle it?
 - Marty will meet with nursing and other schools to see how they are addressing
 - Possibility of eliminating “seeking nursing” and replacing it with “seeking health”
 - If students don't get into nursing, they default to another program (such as “Allied Health” or similar)
 - Would need to develop that program

- ✚ **Negotiated Rulemaking Update**
<https://wcetfrontiers.org/2019/04/12/negotiated-rulemaking-reaches-consensus/>

- Negotiators reached consensus
 - o Proposed regulations will be released in the coming months
 - o If final regulations are released by November 1, 2019 regulations would be effective July 1, 2020
- Preliminary assessments
- Regular and Substantive Interaction
 - o Important for distinguishing distance education and correspondence courses which impact financial aid
 - o Attempt to improve definitions
 - Instructor – essentially left up to accrediting body
 - Substantive – articulates a list of activities that qualify including direct interaction, assessment, feedback on student work or course content, and facilitating group discussions
 - Regular – includes interactions on a set schedule (traditional model) or instructors may monitor student progress and provide feedback when needed or when requested by the student
- Accreditation
 - o Allows for faster approval for changes to programs
 - o Quicker federal recognition of new accreditors
 - o More targeted, less comprehensive federal reviews of accreditors
 - o Gives accreditors discretion over when to take action against a college that is out of compliance
 - Not required to take action, not required to inform students
- Academic Integrity
 - o Requires institutions to have processes in place to confirm that the student who registers for a distance course is the one doing the work
- Written Arrangements
 - o Negotiators rejected proposal which would allow institutions to outsource more than 50% of a program to a non-accredited entity
 - o If the partnership is with another financial aid eligible institution, that institution can now offer more than half of the program
- Direct Assessment
 - o Credit for life experience and get financial aid for it
 - o Has been attempted before and institutions were criticized for not doing it right
 - o Process was simplified
- Professional Licensure Disclosures
 - o General disclosure component (website) and direct disclosure component
 - o Professional licensure programs will need to generally disclose whether they meet, do not meet, or have not made a determination regarding the educational requirement for licensure in each state
 - o Direct disclosures required if program does not meet requirement or institution has not determined
 - o Applies to ALL professional licensure programs
 - Previous rule (delayed) only required disclosures for distance students
 - Currently SARA requires us to inform students, applicants, and potential students *who have contacted us*
- Distance Education Notifications
 - o Removed – mostly already exists in other section of existing regulations
- Will update as we get more information

✚ SARA/State Authorization Update – Lisa

- Negotiated Rulemaking
 - <https://wcetfrontiers.org/2019/04/17/negreg-state-authorization/>
 - Ties eligibility to disburse Title IV aid to institutional approval from each state in which it serves students (either direct authorization or reciprocity)
 - Essentially makes SARA a requirement for UNC to disburse financial aid
 - Authorization is based upon the location of the student
 - As opposed to “residence” – major problem with previous (delayed) rule
 - Institutions allowed to decide how to determine location
 - Must be determined in accordance with consistency practice of the institution’s policies
 - Must describe the policy upon request
 - Determination made at the time of enrollment or when there is a formal receipt of a change through institutional procedures (ex. Official change of address)
 - State authorization reciprocity agreement defined
 - Concerns about the intersection of reciprocity and states’ ability to impose their own statutes and regulations that could conflict, whether applied generally or specifically directed at all of a subgroup of institutions
 - Current guidance from the Department, issued at the end of the Obama era, is that states agreeing to participate in a reciprocity agreement must follow the requirements and terms of the agreement if they intend to participate in that agreement
 - Interpretation of reciprocity definition will be a major issue in the coming year
 - Website
 - Lisa has been working with UR to develop
 - Will be housed on Provost’s website
 - Better address notification requirements, more thorough, better resource for students and campus partners
 - SARA
 - Reporting period announced (May 14th – June 4th)
 - SGACCOOP
 - Document prepared, next step is to take to deans
 - Present concept and process, identify who to reach out to in each college
 - Linda will take to PLT
 - Lisa will continue to work with Charlie
- Lisa will continue to update

✚ Student Complaints – Tuck

- Not addressed

✚ Other

- GDPR – has been on pause, Olga will update at next meeting

✚ **Next Meeting: May 23, 2019 (10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) Campus Commons 2105.**