



DLAB

Distance Learning Authorization Board

**May 23, 2025
Virtual DLAB Meeting**

Minutes

Members present

Dr. Eric Fulcomer, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)
Secretary Dan Hereth, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)
Layla Merrifield, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)
Jay Rothman, Universities of Wisconsin (UW)

Members absent

Dr. Russell Swagger, Wisconsin Tribal Colleges

Others present

Tammie DeVooght-Blaney, HEAB
Rebecca Larson, WAICU
Amy Missinne, UW
Paige Smith, UW
Megan Stritchko, WTCS

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Open Meeting Statement – Jay Rothman, DLAB Chair

Jay Rothman, DLAB Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Amy Missinne called roll and a quorum was present. She read the following Open Meeting Statement: “The May 23, 2025 meeting of the Wisconsin Distance Learning Authorization Board and all other meetings of this board are open to the public in compliance with State Statute. Notice of the meeting has been sent to the press in an attempt to make the general public of Wisconsin aware of the time, place, and agenda of the meeting.”

Action: Approval of December 13, 2024 DLAB Meeting Minutes – Jay Rothman

The minutes of the December 13, 2024, meeting were approved unanimously (Fulcomer/Merrifield motion). The minutes will be posted to the DLAB website.

Report of the Chair – Jay Rothman

Jay Rothman welcomed the board and reviewed the agenda.

Report: Review and Approval of Institutional Applications & Renewals

Universities of Wisconsin – Paige Smith

Paige Smith reported having approved one renewal application for UW-Parkside. It was approved with no issues.

Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities – Rebecca Larson

Rebecca Larson reported having approved one renewal application for Sacred Heart Theological Seminary.

Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services – Paige Smith

On behalf of DSPS, Paige Smith reported an approval on one renewal application for Midwest College of Oriental Medicine in March 2025.

Wisconsin Technical College System – Megan Stritchko

Megan Stritchko reported having approved three renewal applications for Blackhawk Technical College, Gateway Technical College, and Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Report: Staff Updates

NC-SARA Policy Modification Process – Paige Smith

Paige Smith provided an update on the NC-SARA Policy Modification Process (PMP) for 2025. This is the second year of the PMP. For 2025, there were 32 policy proposals received which involved issues, including student consumer protections increased reporting and transparency, eligibility requirements, membership term for states, and federal financial composite scores. The PMP cycle will be completed by the end of summer with proposals submitted to NC-SARA at their October 2025 board meeting.

The annual data reporting cycle is underway, running between May 15-June 15, 2025.

Federal Regulatory Updates – Paige Smith

Paige Smith provided an update on recent federal administrative changes, including a recent Executive Order issued by President Trump related to accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education's announcement of its intention to establish a negotiated rulemaking committee which would be charged with reviewing the following areas: Refining definitions of a qualifying employer for the purposes of determining eligibility for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program; Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) repayment plans; and topics that would streamline current federal student financial assistance program regulations while maintaining or improving program integrity and institutional quality. Paige noted that the DLAB staff representatives will continue to monitor these activities.

President Rothman asked whether distance education will be impacted by the proposed federal changes regarding institution responsibility to repay the federal government for a student's financial aid upon default. Paige responded that it will likely be consistent with non-distance education programs, depending on the number of students receiving financial aid as part of their tuition payment.

Finally, Paige mentioned that NC-SARA is also tracking state legislative activities related to enforcement of state laws that would impact or conflict with existing SARA policies. If more states begin to enforce their consumer protection laws against institutions, it will have an impact on their SARA membership and institution participation.

Complaints Report – Paige Smith

On behalf of DSPS, Paige Smith reported no complaints for this quarter. Kudos given to Joan Gage for tracking and maintaining the complaint process.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded without any additional discussion, and a motion to adjourn was proposed (Hereth / Fulcomer). The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting officially adjourned at 11:19 a.m.