

**State of Wisconsin
Distance Learning Authorization Board (DLAB)**

Friday, September 6, 2019

Minutes

Members present: Dr. Morna Foy, Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) – via phone
Dr. Ray Cross, University of Wisconsin (UW) System – via phone
Dr. Rolf Wegenke, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)
Secretary Dawn Crim, Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)

Others present: Dr. Connie Hutchison, Higher Educational Aids Board – via phone
Ms. Monique Currie, WTCS
Ms. Joan Gage, DSPS
Ms. Paige Smith, UW System
Ms. Rebecca Larson, WAICU
Ms. Julie Drake, WTCS

Call to Order and Open Meeting Statement – Dr. Rolf Wegenke, DLAB Chair

Dr. Wegenke, DLAB chair, called the meeting to order and requested that Ms. Drake read the Open Meeting Statement. A quorum was present.

Report of the Chair – Dr. Wegenke

Dr. Wegenke thanked everyone for their condolences in the passing of Ms. Erin Engsberg of WAICU who had staffed the DLAB.

No update on the Tribal representative appointment for the Board. Dr. Russell Swagger, President of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College has been nominated. Ms. Larson is working with the Governor's office to see where they are in the appointment process.

Action: Approval of May 30, 2019 DLAB meeting minutes – Dr. Wegenke

Ms. Currie submitted technical changes to the May meeting minutes. The May 30, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously with Ms. Currie's technical changes. (Cross/Foy motion)

The minutes will be posted on the DLAB website.

Report: Review and Approval of Institutional Renewal Applications

Ms. Currie provided an update on the renewals for the Wisconsin Technical College System. Eight colleges have submitted their renewals: Chippewa Valley Technical College, Fox Valley Technical College, Northcentral Technical College, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Nicolet Area Technical College, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Western Technical College, and Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. All were approved.

Ms. Smith provided an update on the renewals for the University of Wisconsin System. Thirteen colleges have submitted their renewals: UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Parkside, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, UW-Superior, and UW-Whitewater. All were approved.

Ms. Larson provided an update on the renewals for the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Twelve colleges have submitted their renewals: Bellin College, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Herzing University, Concordia University Wisconsin, Marquette University, Carroll University, Marian University, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Medical College of Wisconsin, Maranatha Baptist University, Lakeland University, and Carthage College. All were approved.

Ms. Larson is also working with colleges and universities on a standardized complaint process.

Ms. Gage provided an update on the renewal for DSPS. One college submitted their renewal, Wright Graduate University, and was approved.

Report: July M-SARA Regional Meeting Summary

A. Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Meeting

Dr. Wegenke served as Dr. Foy's proxy at the July M-SARA RSC Meeting and Portal Entity Meeting, attended also by Ms. Larson. Discussion included the bylaws, NC-SARA manual changes and changes to the NC-SARA mission statement. There was not much discussion at the RSC level. Given this, Dr. Wegenke sent a follow-up email to Susan Heegaard, Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) President, to reiterate Wisconsin's position and concerns on these items.

Draft changes to the branch campus language were discussed in detail. Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, and Illinois all brought up concerns over branch campuses and their inability to regulate them. During the RSC meeting, other states shared concerning examples, mainly occurring with proprietary institutions. Dr. Wegenke shared DLAB's concern that the proposed draft language, stating "an institution may have more than one home state" goes against the spirit of SARA of an institution having one home state.

A workgroup has been established to discuss the branch campus issue in greater detail. Both Ms. Larson and Ms. Smith will participate in the discussion. A meeting has been scheduled by Emily Jacobson of M-SARA for September 25.

B. Portal Entity Meeting

The greatest challenges shared by portal entity representatives when implementing NC-SARA policies are keeping up with changes and the time it may take to implement them at a state level, which may require state statutory changes. Concerns were expressed over gaps in NC-SARA guidance. Feedback from state portal entities needs to be taken into consideration by NC-SARA.

There were also discussions on NC-SARA data reporting with more discussion to follow at the upcoming State meeting in Atlanta. The meeting also included discussion of professional disclosure and challenges with compliance. NC-SARA announced they had posted the “State Authorization Guide” on the NC-SARA website. This guide replaces the SHEEO Surveys (State Higher Education Executive Officers Association), which was a compilation of authorization and compliance information for all 50 states. The information for Wisconsin is incomplete, and Ms. Gage will be working with NC-SARA to update Wisconsin’s information.

Report: Governor Evers Executive Order #37 – Rebecca Larson

Executive Order #37, which documents state authorization and supplements the administrative register listing, was signed by Governor Evers in July.

Report: NC-SARA and DLAB Website Update – Monique Currie

NC-SARA has a new website with new design, including new URLs, except for the homepage. Ms. Currie requested that NC-SARA notify state portal agencies when website changes are made, including temporary page redirects. Jessica Kriplean from HEAB, who maintains the Wisconsin state portal website for DLAB, quickly made the updates to fix the broken links to the NC-SARA website.

When the Tribal representative to DLAB has been confirmed, they will be added to the DLAB website.

Other items

- A. Upcoming NC-SARA National Portal Entity Meeting – September 10-11, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia.
Ms. Smith will be attending as portal rep and will stress some of the language and advocate for mission and sharing issues and concerns we’ve seen over the years. She also plans to connect with other compact portal entities outside of MHEC.

- B. Actions impacting California Distance Education Students.
Due to a court ruling, California distance education students were temporarily unable to access federal financial aid because the California lacked its own complaint process as required under federal rules and does not participate in SARA, which provides a workaround to the issue. It was noted that language in the recent draft federal regulations removed this requirement, but it won’t be in effect until July 1, 2020 at the earliest. In

the meantime, the State of California set up a hotline and website for student complaints that meets current federal requirements.

C. Expanded Professional Licensure Disclosures.

It was noted that the recent draft federal regulation had changes regarding professional licensure disclosures. The disclosure requirements were moved from the distance education section to a part of the regulation such that it will become an issue for all higher education institutions who offer programs leading to professional licensure regardless of how the programs are delivered. Inquiries regarding professional licensure questions from other states, colleges and students will increase, impacting DSPS. This will affect students in all states and every professional program that could lead to licensure. It was noted that professional licensure requirements are constantly changing.

Next meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the DLAB Board of Directors will be December 13, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:39 a.m. (Foy/Wegenke motion).