



September 29, 2023

11:00 am

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members present:

- President Morna Foy – Chair – Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)
- President Eric Fulcomer – Vice Chair – Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)
- President Jay Rothman – Secretary – University of Wisconsin System (UWS)

Others Present:

- Julie Drake, WTCS
- Joan Gage, DSPS
- Julie Jonuzi, UWS
- Rebecca Larson, WAICU
- Amy Missinne, UWS
- Paige Smith, UWS
- Megan Stritchko, WTCS

Call to Order, Roll Call and Open Meeting Statement

President Foy called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Action Item. Approval of the May 19, 2023 meeting minutes.

It was moved by President Rothman, seconded by President Fulcomer to approve the May 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of the Chair

President Foy had been serving on the M-SARA Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for many years (before Wisconsin joined SARA in 2016). While she has enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the evolution of this important committee and lend a voice on behalf of Wisconsin's institutions and DLAB, it was time to step down and pass the torch to someone who could bring new ideas and energy to Wisconsin's SARA policy work. Paige Smith has accepted an appointment as Wisconsin's M-SARA Regional Steering Committee representative and began her work in that role a few months ago. She brings a wealth of knowledge and has a deep understanding of SARA, having been instrumental in Wisconsin's consideration of, and eventual membership in NC-SARA.

As NC-SARA engages in the new policy modification process, the M-SARA RSC will be instrumental in shaping those policies and ensuring that states and institutions are centered in that work. This new

phase of implementation-focused work at the RSC benefits from Paige's expertise and she will be a valuable resource on the RSC as M-SARA navigates this next chapter.

Report: Review of Institutional Application Submissions, Renewals and Withdrawals

- a. Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
 - i. Ms. Larson reported on 12 renewals for WAICU since May for Bellin College, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Herzing University, Concordia University Wisconsin, Marquette University, Carroll University, Marian University, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Viterbo University, Medical College of Wisconsin, Edgewood College and Maranatha Baptist University. Professional licensure disclosure required additional discussions with institutions, but the service HELP/Bookmark has been a valuable resource for all schools and is expected to be a valuable resource going forward.
 - ii. Ms. Larson reported that Nashotah House remains on provisional status as they are awaiting an updated Federal Financial Responsibility score from the Department of Education. Preliminary internal calculations indicate that they may fall below the passing score, but no action will be taken until the Department of Education provides their official score. Nashotah House is doing their due diligence of what needs to be done if they cannot participate in SARA. President Foy commented that last time Nashotah House appealed the process and asked if a similar challenge might be brought forward again. Ms. Larson indicated that she was not sure but doesn't think they will challenge it. President Foy commented that Nashotah House was the first institution that raised the need for DLAB to formalize a process to deal with this provisional status. DLAB now has that process in place if provisional status needs arise again. Provisional status decisions cannot be made by the portal representatives and therefore the board must call a meeting to act. President Rothman asked what happens to the students if an institution cannot be approved for SARA and whether the institution has a responsibility to ensure the students complete their degree. Ms. Larson replied that if institutions are no longer participants in SARA, they have six months to come into compliance with all states. The portal representative must submit a form approved by the DLAB Chair to NC-SARA to remove the institution. Ms. Smith commented that the policy modification process is reviewing policies to increase student protections around closure and states have authority for student protections as well. President Foy commented that the primary benefit of SARA membership is to the institution, not the students. The students remain protected under various state provisions regardless of membership in SARA.
- b. Wisconsin Technical College System – Ms. Stritchko reported WTCS approvals for Chippewa Valley, Fox Valley, Madison Area, Nicolet Area, Northcentral, Northeast Wisconsin, Northwood, Southwest Wisconsin and Western technical colleges. Additionally, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University was approved. President Foy recommended the responsibility to approve tribal colleges stays with WTCS, not with the Chair of DLAB, given the close relationship that exists between WTCS and tribal colleges.
- c. Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services – Ms. Gage reported one school closure for Wright Graduate. All processes were followed, and everything went smoothly.
- d. University of Wisconsin System – Ms. Smith reported UW System renewals for Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls,

Stevens Point, Stout, Superior and Whitewater. Ms. Smith reported no major issues and that the application process has gone very smoothly.

Report: State Portal Entity Representative Updates

- a. General Updates – Paige Smith
 - i. Policy Modification Process – Ms. Smith gave an update on the new NC-SARA Policy Modification Process (PMP). This process began at the start of the 2023 calendar year. The PMP requires that all four regional compacts approve a proposal before the NC-SARA Board will consider it. There were 63 proposed policies submitted to NC-SARA by a number of different groups, including the regional compacts, institutions, state regulators and private interest student consumer protection groups. For this PMP period, a total of six policies were approved by the four regional compacts and submitted to NC-SARA for its consideration at its board meeting in October 2023.
 - ii. Federal Regulation Update – Ms. Smith provided a brief update on the status of the Negotiated Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposals that would impact SARA participating institutions. These include professional licensure disclosure requirements and state authorization requirements. To date, the NPRM has not published a final rule on these proposals.
 - iii. NC-SARA Grants – Ms. Smith also noted that NC-SARA has a new grant opportunity for state portal entities that includes available funds up to \$7,500 per grant. Applications are due by October 31. There was consensus from the DLAB members to direct the DLAB staff to apply for this grant. Ms. Larson mentioned that in addition to this grant opportunity, the NC-SARA mini-grant that was received by DLAB in the amount of \$5,000 this past year are being used to support the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) in their efforts to update the DLAB website and integrate the DLAB website into HEAB infrastructure updates.
- b. SARA Student Complaints – Ms. Gage reported no complaints for the last quarterly report.

Other Business

- The next meeting of the Board is Friday, December 15, 2023 at 11 am (virtual). That meeting will include election of officers for 2024 and review/approval of the DLAB Annual Report.
- Ms. Drake has contacted Board members via email to survey availability for 2024 meeting dates to set at the December meeting.

Adjournment

It was moved by President Fulcomer, seconded by President Rothman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.