

Alabama Council of University Chief Academic Officers (CUCAO)

Minutes

February 19, 2014

9:30am-3:00pm

7515 Halcyon Summit Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117

(approved 10/29/14)

AGENDA

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| 9:30am | Continental Breakfast |
| 10:00-11:00 am | Welcome & Introductions Mary Larson and Alan Contreras – Reciprocity in Distance Education (SREB, SECRRRA, and SARA) |
| 11:00-11:30 am | Tom Surtees, Education Policy Advisor to Gov. Bentley, and Commissioner, Alabama Dept. of Labor |
| 11:30-12:00 pm | Gregory Fitch, Executive Director, ACHE |
| 12:00-1:00 pm | Lunch with Government Relations Officers, Happy Fulford, C. J. Hincy |
| 1:00-2:00 pm | Tim Renick, Vice Provost, Georgia State University |
| 2:00-2:45 pm | Kib McKibbens, Governor's Office of Small Business Development |
| 2:45-3:00 pm | Treasurer's Report & Wrap Up |

MINUTES

- I. Dr. David Johnson opened the meeting at 10:00am on February 19, 2014.
- II. Welcome and Introductions – Those in attendance introduced themselves.
- III. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the Wednesday, June 26, 2013 meeting were approved.
- IV. Dr. David Johnson introduced **Mary Larson**, SREB Director – Student Access Programs and Services and the Electronic Campus, and **Alan Contreras**, Coordinator – national Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), who discussed **Reciprocity in Distance Education (SREB, SECRRRA, and SARA)**:

- a. Several individuals from higher education in Alabama attended a conference sponsored by SREB in Atlanta in January on reciprocity agreements.
- b. Mary Larson presented on the SREB Electronic Campus and gave a brief overview of its history, including the development of the standards of good practice – CRAC Standards. The Electronic Campus has grown from 100 courses in 1998 to 10,000 courses and 2181 degrees today.
- c. SARA will use the CRAC standards of good practice as a requirement for institutional membership and participation.
- d. SARA will eventually cover those programs offered by degree granting institutions offering courses online that cross state lines and offer programs to non-residents. It is expected that 20 institutions in the Midwest will join SARA by the end of 2014.
- e. **QUESTION:** Will Sara take the burden off of an institution regarding the registry of clinical/practical sites? **ANSWER:** Such programs will still have to register clinical/practical sites with state licensure boards, but the burden will be reduced for those sites with small numbers of students.
- f. **QUESTION:** Is there a limit to the number of students at each clinical site? **ANSWER:** 10 students per site will be allowed without triggering a “physical presence.”
- g. SREB ‘s intent is to eventually move from SECRRA to SARA – SECRRA will be maintained until the majority of SREB states join SARA – perhaps by 2016.
- h. **QUESTION:** Will for-profits be included? **ANSWER:** For-profit institutions are not covered by SECRRA, but are allowed to participate under SARA.
- i. Alabama state coordinator for SECRRA and SARA will be Paul Moore of ACHE (if Alabama participates)
- j. Institutions will be able to opt-out of SARA if they so choose.
- k. SREB states will be joining SARA by July and a steering committee is being formed for review of states that are applying.

- I. Each state will identify a portal agency for communication with SARA. That portal agency for Alabama would probably be ACHE.
 - m. Any SARA fees and associated ACHE fees will be based upon further legislation. Tuition and fee structure for online delivery of courses is institution specific.
 - n. For more information, visit www.sreb.org/SARA
- V. **Tom Surtees**, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bentley, and Commissioner, Alabama Department of Labor
 - a. Reported that Gov. Bentley supports Alabama participation in reciprocity agreements for distance education.
 - b. \$10M in education budget is allocated for innovation fund.
 - c. \$6M allocated for dual enrollment programs predominantly for community colleges, though some four-year colleges may participate.
 - d. *HB 384* had passed both house and senate votes to allow a tax credit for scholarships for dual enrollment.
 - e. **QUESTION:** How will the tax credit work? **ANSWER:** Anyone making a contribution to scholarships may receive the credit.
 - f. *SB 122* deals with a tax credit for research incentives - \$2.5M
 - g. Governor Bentley is supportive of Alabama Higher Education.
 - h. Dept. of Labor is able to provide more specific projections for job growth to assist colleges and universities in planning curricula.
 - i. **QUESTION:** Why is *HB 384* targeted to technical and community colleges? Why aren't four-year institutions represented? **ANSWER:** This fact has been brought up to the chairman in the hopes of developing a plan to address this question.
- VI. **Greg Fitch**, Executive Director of ACHE
 - a. One of the reasons four-year colleges/universities were not mentioned in *HB 384* was because the four-year colleges/universities did not respond to previous information provided about this possible allocation, which focused the discussion more on career and technical training development.

- b. *HB 321* dealing with state reciprocity has one element of concern: the exclusion of for-profits and the use of “located and participating” in SARA states.
- c. Concerns were expressed about SB 38 which deals with recognition of teacher certification, home schooling, and charter schools. The for-profit South University branch campus was chartered through this bill and allowed that institution to access state grant funding.
- d. *SB 54* National Guard Scholarships currently only award \$500.00 per semester. Bill asks to increase these scholarships to \$2K each year to fully utilize the \$190-200K that had been unused from the \$500K allocation.
- e. The Common Core is still under attack.
- f. Workforce development is gaining attention in the legislature.
- g. **REQUEST:** Please review the reported numbers of dual enrollment students. Perhaps language should be changed from “dual enrollment” to “dual credit” because the latter term is more accurate.
- h. Point of interest: TN, OR, and MS now allow students to attend the first two years of college for free.
- i. Point of interest: college rating system criticized for using a “cookie cutter” approach.
- j. Discussion of NISP approval process and timeline. Goal is to accelerate the process and reduce the workload. Input from graduate school deans and CUCAO members is needed to make recommendations regarding these NISPs. Peer review of these programs is very important because it helps to fully determine the “uniqueness” of a program to benefit the state as a whole.
- k. **QUESTION:** Should we have a more formal review process for Bachelor’s programs? **ANSWER:** Lenny to advise CUCAO on more formal role for undergraduate program review.
- l. Input is welcome, but without a process in place, input may bog down the review of these new programs.

- m. ACHE strategic planning under way for next five-year plan (2015-2020).
- n. Quadrennial report on evaluation of ACHE coming soon. Evaluation is being bid now.
- o. Workforce development brochures are available from ACHE.

VII. **Happy Fulford**, USA Governmental Relations & **C.J. Hincy**, Auburn Governmental Relations.

- a. State reciprocity report – House has passed, Senate unknown. Leadership is aware of needs and benefits – need to work out more details and keep pushing forward.
- b. *HB 348* Age of Majority Law will lower age to 18 to facilitate participation in university research by 18 year olds.
- c. Bid laws being discussed. Possible limit to \$100K due to vendors defaulting on bids. Vendors who have defaulted would no longer have preferred status.
- d. Discussion of In-state Travel Per-Diem – need to increase flexibility with these regulations.
- e. Happy is working on change of language regarding state reciprocity and for-profits to address the “located and participating members” of SARA issue.

VIII. **Tim Renick**, Vice Provost, Georgia State University

- a. Presented on Student Success (retention and graduation) initiatives at Georgia State.

IX. **Kib McKibbens**, Governor’s Office of Small Business Development

- a. Presented on the Governors College and Career Readiness initiative to advance workforce development.
- b. Encouraged CUCAO members to figure out how four-year universities can address need for “soft-skill” development to benefit workforce development initiatives. Students are receiving technical training, but

perhaps four-year colleges/universities can be called upon to develop the necessary people skills for more effective workforce/career advancement.

- c. CUCAO members encouraged to participate fully in the ongoing discussions about workforce development. Four-year colleges/universities in AL need to move beyond the pursuit of “knowledge for knowledge’s sake” because we are also responsible for contributing to effective workforce development.

X. **CUCAO Financial Report:**

- a. \$6,682.87 Balance.
- b. Institutions will not be invoiced this year because the balance is healthy.
- c. If a retreat is to be held this summer and involve community colleges – propose a registration fee of \$200.00 each.