

## S-SARA Steering Committee Minutes

September 4, 2018 – 3 PM EST

Conducted by Conference Call

### Steering Committee Members Present

- Timothy Vick (AL), Director of Operations and Fiscal Services, Alabama Commission on Higher Education
- Alana Boles (AR), Program Director for Private Career and Out-of-State Education, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, CHAIR (10/20/16-10/20/18)
- Nicholas Buono (DE), Education Specialist, Delaware Department of Education
- Angela Lee (DC), Executive Director, District of Columbia Higher Education Licensure Commission, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Government of the District of Columbia
- Morgan Champion (FL), Director of Postsecondary Reciprocal Distance Education, Postsecondary Reciprocal Distance Education Commission for Independent Education
- Corinna Robinson (GA), Executive Director, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
- Patricia (Pat) Neri (GA), SARA Coordinator, Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission
- LeAnn Detillier (LA), Assistant Commissioner for Program Administration, Louisiana Board of Regents
- Michael Kiphart (MD), Director of Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission
- Menia Dykes (MS), Director of Accreditation, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Commission/Council for Community and Technical College Education
- Terrence Scarborough (NC), Director of SARA North Carolina, North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
- Daniel Archer (OK), Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- David Baez Davila (PR), Director of Education Support Programs, Puerto Rico Council on Education
- Peggy Simons (SC), Program Coordinator, South Carolina Commissions in Higher Education
- Rex Peebles (TX), Assistant Commissioner, Academic Quality and Workforce, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- Darlene Derricott (VA), Director of Academic Services, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
- Camille McKayle (VI), Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the Virgin Islands
- Jeannie Yockey-Fine (Member At-Large), State Regulatory Services Specialist, Hogan Lovells US LLP
- Robert Igo (Member At-Large), Director of Compliance and Reporting, Penn State Outreach and Online Education

### Steering Committee Members Absent

- Sarah Levy (KY), Director of Postsecondary Licensing, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Patricia Landis (PA), Division Chief, Higher and Career Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
- Clay Barton (SC), Licensing Program Coordinator, Postsecondary Institution Licensing, Academic Affairs, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (represented by Peggy Simons)
- Julie Woodruff (TN), Assistant Executive Director of Postsecondary State Authorization and Lead Attorney, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- Mark Stotler (WV), Director of Academic Programming, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
- Robert Reed (Member At-Large), Director, UCF Online, University of Central Florida
- Robert Keown (Member At-Large), Executive Director, Georgia Virtual Technical Connection, Technical College System of Georgia (Voting by Proxy)
- Cristi D. Ford (Member At-Large), Associate Vice President, Center for Innovation in Learning and Student Success, University of Maryland University College

### SREB Staff Present

- Wanda Barker, Director of Educational Technology and Multi-State Cooperative Programs
- Elisa Jaden, Program Coordinator of Educational Technology and Multi-State Cooperative Programs

### NC-SARA Staff Present

- Mary Larson, Associate Director for Student and Institution Support, National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)

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**Invited Guests**

- Damaris Nolasco-Ortiz (PR), Assistant to the Executive Director of Communications, Puerto Rico Council on Education

**Welcome, Roll Call and General Reminders**

Wanda Barker welcomed all attendees and reviewed a list of expected conference call behaviors that included the following:

- Mute your phone when not speaking to keep background noise to a minimum.
- If you have questions, please enter them into the chat window.

Wanda introduced Alana Boles, Steering Committee Chair.

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Alana Boles called the meeting to order at 3:20pm and conducted roll call to confirm sufficient Steering Committee attendance for voting and to gather information regarding other guests on the call. She turned the floor over to Wanda Barker.

Wanda explained the subject and reason for the teleconference; which is Puerto Rico's request for a one-time reduction in NC-SARA fees for AY 2018-19, from two thousand, four thousand and six thousand dollars to one thousand, two thousand and three thousand dollars.

Wanda explained that this process started via email but proved inefficient for tracking the new motions that were presented by various members and the need for a vote on this issue.

Wanda presented the questions and comments that were submitted to SREB by email from steering committee members for the rest of the committee members to hear and for David Baez to answer.

Wanda presented Clay Barton's amendment to the initial motion that suggested 1) that Puerto Rico allow a one-half reduction in the territory SARA fees paid by institutions along with the reduced NC-SARA fees it pays, 2) that any state/territory under this policy conduct a fiscal impact assessment at the end-of-the-year, in the case it needs another extension, and 3) that NC-SARA develop catastrophic events policies and procedures to handle requests such as these.

David Baez responded that Puerto Rico needs the full territory fees in order to operate day-to-day business, so a reduction in territory fees is not an option.

Wanda reminded the committee that only NC-SARA can make SARA policy, and that the steering committee's position is to recommend its ideas to NC-SARA for consideration of new policy.

Mary Larson reminded the committee that there is a process in place for how policy recommendations get made to the regional compacts and steering committees and the directors, already in the manual.

Camille McKayle offered that the Virgin Islands was going to abstain from this vote on the chance that it may, as a tropical island, also need to make the same request in the future.

Wanda stated that the revised motion that we are considering at the moment is that the committee recommends to NC-SARA to reduce the institutional NC-SARA fee for Puerto Rico during the 2018-19 academic year, adjusting the current tiers of two thousand, four thousand, and six thousand dollars to a one-half reduction of one thousand, two thousand, and three thousand dollars, provided the following conditions are met: we're eliminating condition number one that Puerto Rico also reduce the institutional territory fees by one half, condition number two would be the Puerto Rico state portal entity provide a fiscal impact assessment at the end of the 18-19 year to SREB SARA steering committee as determined by the SARA steering committee or NC-SARA, and condition number three would be to provide NC-SARA with recommendations from the regional steering committees to develop catastrophic events policies and procedures. Does that capture the discussion that we've had and what the recommendations are?

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The question was raised whether the committee thought that condition number three would prevent the entire motion from going through because it seemed that condition number three was trying to impose something on another organization.

Multiple members agreed. The question was raised whether anyone disagreed with removing condition number three. With no response, Wanda asked for a motion to remove condition number three from the motion. Bob Igo made the motion and Terrence seconded the motion.

Wanda stated that the amended motion that we are now considering is that the committee recommends to NC-SARA to reduce institutional NC-SARA fees for Puerto Rico during the 2018-19 academic year, reducing the current tiers of two thousand, four thousand, and six thousand dollars to a one-half reduction of one thousand, two thousand, and three thousand dollars providing the following conditions are met: the only condition is that the Puerto Rico state portal entity provide a fiscal impact assessment at the end of the 18-19 year to the SREB SARA steering committee, as determined by the SREB SARA steering committee or NC-SARA.

Motion to Accept: Robert "Bob" Igo (Member At-Large)

Seconded: Terrence Scarborough (NC)

Vote: Motion passed

15 for (1 by proxy – Robert Keown (At-Large))

00 against

02 abstention (PR and VI)

**New Business:**

The dates and locations of the next three SREB SARA Steering Committee meeting were shared. For the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Atlanta Airport Marriott, the vote for chair and co-chair was discussed, the nominations were introduced, and some voting protocol was covered, as well as a discussion about the states that are up for renewal.

Rex Peebles made a motion to adjourn.

Bob Igo seconded the motion

The meeting adjourned at 3:46pm.