



McKenzie Snow, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Senior Year Plus (SYP) Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (PSCAC) Agenda

Monday, April 29, 2024
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Iowa Department of Education
400 East 14th Street – Grimes State Office Building
Room B100 (Basement Level)
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

In attendance: Andrew Beckett (University of Iowa), Katie Gilbert (NICC), Stacy Mentzer (ICCC), Deirdre Heistad (University of Northern Iowa), Cynthia Phillips (Cedar Rapids CSD), Steven Schulz (NIACC), Shane Scott (West Des Moines CSD), Zoe Thornton (Iowa State University), Mike Van Sickle (Louisa-Musactine CSD), Emily Shields (Community Colleges for Iowa), Katrina Callahan (Community Colleges for Iowa), Heather Meissen (IDOE), Amy Gieseke (IDOE), Jeremy Varner (IDOE), Lora Vargason (IDOE)

Guests: Sarah Topliff (HCC), Michael Lentsch (DMACC), Karen Swanson (DMACC), Randy Gabriel (DMACC)

Materials can be found in [this folder](#).

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:15 AM | Welcome and introduction |
| 9:15 – 9:30 AM | Legislative update <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lora Vargason, Iowa Department of Education● Session ended on April 20th● See PowerPoint for links● HF2615: Removes CCTC shared operations cap; requires a link to Iowa Student Outcomes to be published● SF2405: Changes to Community College State General Aid allocation formula● SF2435: Education appropriations budget bill; \$7 million for community colleges● SF2385: Boards and Commissions bill; eliminates community college council; transfers Postsecondary Course Audit Committee duties to Department of Education; etc. - Bill hasn't been signed yet |
| 9:30 – 10:15 AM | PSCAC overview, history, and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Jeremy Varner went through the history of the history of the Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (see PowerPoint slides for detail) |

Creating excellence in education through leadership and service

- There was a discussion about whether there should be a concurrent enrollment advisory committee to replace the Postsecondary Court Audit Committee - if the bill is signed it would take effect on July 1
- There was a discussion about the make-up of the concurrent enrollment advisory committee
 - The committee appreciates having representation from K-12, community colleges, and regent universities
 - Possible expansion of the committee
- The committee discussed how NACEP is a demanding process, but is a valuable process and ensures quality; training has improved for peer review teams, but there are still issues since peer reviewers are volunteers
 - There have been discussions at the president's level about NACEP
 - The committee discussed how they need to see what HLC plans on reviewing concurrent enrollment in more detail in the future
 - It was emphasized that the Department tries not to be duplicative during the three accreditation processes
- There has been rumblings that maybe state can do some of these reviews instead of NACEP
 - There is a similar staffing issues because someone has to do the work - someone would need to get paid (NACEP reviewers don't get paid)
 - There are no state dollars to administer concurrent enrollment
 - The bottom line is that someone needs to do this work
- It was mentioned that this would be a good opportunity to take a look at the whole process, from the K-12 side to the community college side
- HLC - concurrent enrollment isn't looked at very much, but they may look at it more in the future (not sure how much they will though or what peer reviewer training will look like)
 - HLC is doing more site visits of high schools - have been very thorough
 - When HLC does more of what the PSCAC is tasked with, then there can be a discussion about whether all that is needed is HLC
 - Might be worth mapping what HLC has been looking at with what NACEP looks like
- Type of representation on a future advisory committee
 - In the past - try to get different levels from the three different education areas
 - In the past - try to get diversity in regards to the types of institutions represented
 - Suggestions: could include nonpublic high schools and private colleges, instructors (HS or community college), faculty liaisons from the colleges, students, counselors/CCTCs,
- Role of a future advisory committee
 - Could look at more of a bigger picture and scope could be much broader
 - Could look at Advanced Placement and PSEO in more depth
 - Could look at equity gaps in concurrent enrollment participation - both K-12 and postsecondary institutions have a role in this

- Committee could engage more with statewide work-a-like groups (faculty, CCTCs, etc.)
- Frequency of meetings
 - The committee could possibly meet quarterly to drive their agenda more
 - Could be virtual so that they could be more frequent
- Size of the group
 - If there is access to a variety of groups (work-a-like groups), concurrent enrollment could be an agenda item - there can be reports given at the advisory committee group from these other groups
- The Department will continue to monitor what is going on with NACEP and HLC
 - NACEP is a growing organization but could be stronger
- Another idea is to investigate what other states are doing, especially those that require NACEP

10:15 – 10:25 AM

Break

10:25 – 10:45 AM

National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP)

- Community college reaccreditation efforts
- NACEP Standards
- Iowa representatives on NACEP Boards and Commissions
- There is a chart on page 9 in the Audit Plan and Report document showing when each community college was accredited by NACEP, when they were reaccredited, and when they are going to re-apply for reaccreditation.
- All 15 community colleges are accredited; it is a very demanding process
- Most recently accredited program is Iowa Lakes (2023); before that it was IWCC
- DMACC is the next college that is up for accreditation
- Then there are 10 institutions up for reaccreditation in 2026-2027 (the institutions have already started the process of getting ready for this - starts with a self-analysis and annual report; they also pull data ahead of time)
- NACEP standards - 16 required standards to be followed (in 6 different areas) - see [PowerPoint](#) for specific standards
 - These have been cross-walked to the state standards
 - The state tries to not be duplicative during state accreditation
- NACEP is working on revising these standards and will most likely be announce in the fall
- See slide in the [PowerPoint](#) for an overview of the Intent of the NACEP Standards
- Michelle Brown from SCC and Sara Topliff from HCC serve on the NACEP Accreditation Commission; Nikki Guillion (EICC) serves on the NACEP Engagement Commission
 - Sarah talked about her experience as an accreditation commissioner

- 10:45 – 11:00 AM NACEP State Chapter - Sarah Topliff
- Iowa was officially recognized last year as a state chapter - there are 8 people serving on board of directors (most are from community colleges)
 - All 15 community colleges are signed on; it is free to join
 - Currently working on a listserv and a website that is supported through NACEP
 - First statewide conference is March 27-28, 2025 at Hawkeye Community College (will be free to attend or very cheap)
 - First day of conference will be NACEP accreditation institute (which is required for reaccreditation - the 10 schools that are up for reaccreditation in 2026-2027 will attend that - will save the colleges travel time and money)
 - Second day will be a mini-conference
- 11:00 – 11:30 AM Review NACEP accreditation annual reports and discussion
- It was noted that the responses got blended for new onboarding of faculty and faculty professional development percentage questions - could have been a technical glitch
 - These were originally used by NACEP for policy (outcomes, how students were transferring, etc.)
 - It has shifted to be more of a “check-in” to keep institutions on track with accreditation standards
 - Institutions don’t really receive feedback and they are not sure what happens with the data
 - Feedback on reports to pass back to NACEP
 - Many questions do tie to standards and seem a little redundant
 - Would like more opportunities for qualitative feedback but then the question is what they would do with that
 - The reports are more useful as colleges get closer to reaccreditation time
 - There was a question as to whether data is compared to a baseline or a guide to give colleges a reference point
 - Peer reviewers don’t look at these reports; but the questions are the same as the ones that go into application (redundant)
 - Would like to see student outcomes brought back into these
 - They feel like this is a compliance piece of NACEP accreditation
- 11:30 – 11:45 AM Des Moines Area Community College NACEP re-accreditation process
- Michael Lentsch, Director, Career Advantage, DMACC
 - Karen Swanson, Director, Work Based Learning & Career Advantage, DMACC
 - DMACC went through their efforts for reaccreditation and gave insights about what is required
 - See [PowerPoint](#)
- 11:45 – 12:30 PM Working lunch
- Institutional updates from committee members

- Committee members went around the room during lunch and gave updates
- 12:30 – 1:00 PM PSCAC Audit Report and Plan for 2023-2024
- Review and discussion
 - Committee [Audit Report/Audit Plan](#) recommendation
 - **Decision:** The PSCAC adopted the Audit Report for FY23
 - **Decision:** The PSCAC approved the Audit Plan for FY24 (which includes the requirement that colleges must demonstrate compliance with Senior Year Plus state standards through NACEP accredited status)
 - It was suggested that the Department keep an eye on what NACEP and HLC does regarding concurrent enrollment in the future
 - Edits to the Audit Report and Plan before finalizing
 - Add a sentence regarding replacing the PSCAC with an advisory committee
 - Add a statement about how DMACC is up for reaccreditation next year and that NCC is up for 2025-2026 (there were moved up a year)
- 1:00 – 1:45 PM Senior Year Plus data and discussion
- Participation data
 - Annual Joint Enrollment Report data
 - Heather presented joint enrollment data and PSEO/Advanced Placement data. See [PowerPoint](#).
- 1:45 – 2:00 PM Next steps and adjournment