



DLAB

Distance Learning Authorization Board

State of Wisconsin Distance Learning Authorization Board (DLAB)

September 23, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Members present:

- Dr. Morna Foy, Vice Chair– Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)
- Rebecca Larson, on behalf of Dr. Rolf Wegenke, Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU)
- Dan Hereth, Acting Secretary-Designee, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS)
- Dr. Russell Swagger (Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College)
- Paige Smith, on behalf of Jay Rothman, University of Wisconsin System (UWSA)

Others present:

- Joan Gage, Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services
- Megan Stritchko, Wisconsin Technical College System

Call to Order, Roll Call and Open Meeting Statement. Dr. Foy called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and stated a quorum was present. Paige Smith confirmed that the meeting was posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Laws.

Dr Foy noted for the record that Rebecca Larson was acting on behalf of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) and Paige Smith was acting on behalf of President Jay Rothman for the University of Wisconsin System.

Action Item. The minutes from the May 27, 2022, DLAB meeting were unanimously approved (Larson/Smith motion). The minutes will be publicly posted to the DLAB website.

Report of the Vice Chair. On behalf of Dr. Foy, Paige Smith reported that the State of Wisconsin's application for NC-SARA membership was approved as a continuing member of NC-SARA for another one-year term.

Report of institutional application renewals for SARA participation. Based on the renewals approved by the respective state portal entity sector representative, the following institutions have been approved to participate in SARA for another year term:

Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU):

- Bellin College
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Herzing University
- Concordia University Wisconsin
- Marquette University
- Carroll University
- Wisconsin Lutheran College
- Medical College of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS):

- Northcentral Technical College
- Western Technical College
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- Fox Valley Technical College
- Nicolet Area Technical College
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
- Northwood Technical College
- Madison Area Technical College
- Waukesha County Technical College

University of Wisconsin System (UWS):

- University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin- Green Bay
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
- University of Wisconsin-Parkside
- University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- University of Wisconsin-River Falls
- University of Wisconsin-Stout
- University of Wisconsin-Superior

Wisconsin Tribal Colleges:

- Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College

Report by state portal entity representatives.

Paige Smith stated that NC-SARA has undergone some administrative changes, including the resignation of the current CEO, Lori Williams. Marianne Boeke has been appointed as an acting/interim CEO while the board conducts a national search for a new CEO.

Ms. Smith also provided an update on topics covered at the NC-SARA National Conference, including the adoption of a new Policy Modification Process that will create a consistent and transparent process under which policies and procedures in the SARA Manual may be added, modified, or repealed. This Policy will go into effect as of January 2023.

Ms. Smith provided an update on the recent engagement between DLAB and the Wisconsin Attorney General's Office and Department of Justice on student consumer protection rights and SARA activities. Discussions have been positive and informative. DLAB will continue to collaborate with the AG and DOJ's Office representatives on SARA issues, as needed.

Rebecca Larson also shared highlights from NC-SARA and M-SARA meetings and conferences held over the summer months. Ms. Larson noted that NC-SARA board leadership has expressed a commitment to providing a more member-focused organization that will be more engaged with its regional compacts and state members through increased communication, transparency in NC-SARA board activities and more opportunity for input and the delivery of pertinent and timely NC-SARA resources. NC-SARA is considering extending the application cycle for state member renewals as well as a more consistent application cycle for institution applications.

Rebecca Larson also stated that institutions may be denied participation in SARA due to the pandemic's negative impact on private institutions' financial stability. There are also delays in the Department of Education's (DOE) reissuance of scores which extends the timeframe under which NC-SARA denies participation even if an institution's score has increased to the level required for SARA participation. NC-SARA is aware of this matter and will continue to discuss ways in which it might improve processes to allow institutions to rejoin SARA while scores are being updated by DOE.

Report on SARA Student Complaints. Joan Gage reported that there have been no SARA student complaints filed against any Wisconsin institution participating in SARA since her last report in May of 2022.

General updates from board members. There were no updates provided by the board members.

The next DLAB meeting will be held virtually on December 16, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:38 a.m.