

## Senior Year Plus Postsecondary Course Audit Committee

February 25, 2021 - Location: Zoom

### Minutes

**Members Present:** Beckett, Blake, Marvin, Maxey, Mentzer, Pease, Phillips, Thornton, Wee

**Department of Education:** Harden, Nissen, Rathje, St Clair, Varner

**Iowa State Education Association:** Peterson

The Senior Year Plus Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (PSCAC) convened on February 25, 2021. The meeting began at 10:00am.

RATHJE welcomed members to the meeting. VARNER reviewed the group's charge and shared the history and scope of the committee; including the role of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). It was noted the Department has a [crosswalk document](#) that aligns NACEP standards with state statutory requirements for concurrent enrollment programs.

RATHJE provided a reaccreditation status update for each of each of Iowa's 15 community college's. It was noted that the 2020-2021 NACEP accreditation cycle was postponed due to COVID. This provides all currently accredited institutions one additional year of accreditation. Amy Williams (NACEP Executive Director) and Mike Beam (NACEP Accreditation Chair) joined the meeting with a presentation on NACEP, explaining benefits of accreditation, the accreditation process, role of the Accreditation Commission and brief statistics on concurrent enrollment. Discussion followed including current work by the Department to develop a state profile of Iowa to provide to all postsecondary institutions prior to going through the reaccreditation process to ensure each peer review team has a full understanding of the context of Iowa, including state requirements and how those are standardized across the state. ST CLAIR shared that NACEP is part of the [College in High School Alliance](#) working to produce advocacy reports for concurrent enrollment programs and may be an additional resource for data on concurrent enrollment.

VARNER discussed key action items as a group is adopting the report from the prior year (FY21) and setting the audit plan for next year (FY22). VARNER explained the group needs to ensure they are comfortable with continuing prior course of action which includes utilizing NACEP standards and the NACEP accreditation process to ensure quality in concurrent enrollment program offerings, but this is open to discussion. VARNER discussed if an institution fails to maintain NACEP accreditation the committee would reconvene to determine how to address the issues of not obtaining accredited status.

BECKETT had to leave the meeting for a prior commitment.

RATHJE presented the audit report which summarizes the prior work of the PSCAC and the efforts of the community colleges to obtain NACEP accreditation and reaccreditation. The audit plan was introduced that each community college will demonstrate compliance with state statutory requirements by maintaining NACEP accreditation. Floor was opened for discussion. MARVIN indicated the committee could be involved in the process for NACEP accreditation expressing the potential for a mock review for each institution the year prior to the actual review bringing in personnel who are familiar with the process to assist. MENTZER concurred.

ST CLAIR provided a legislative update regarding Senior Year Plus proficiency requirements. A bill was introduced to keep statewide proficiency requirements but adds flexibility with the use of alternative measures of proficiency adding language of measures of college readiness agreed upon by the community college and school district. Currently a small workgroup is looking at what these joint measures of college readiness may look like and guidance will be released in the near future.

ST CLAIR indicated as a reminder the need of formal action by the committee to adopt the prior year audit report and audit plan for the upcoming year. THORNTON verified there are no modifications to the plan and the committee would be continuing/renewing past practices. RATHJE confirmed.

RATHJE asked for a motion to approve the prior year audit report. BECKETT was absent for the vote.

Motion: Mentzer;           Second: Marvin;

In favor: All;               Opposed: None.

Rathje asked for a motion to approve the 2021-2022 audit plan. BECKETT was absent for the vote.

Motion: Maxey;            Second: Wee;

In favor: All;              Opposed: None.

Final comments discussed were providing out the Department's Joint Enrollment report once finalized. PHILLIPS discussed the helpfulness of the crosswalk document and indicated another consideration to a full mock review for a postsecondary institution is the potential to assign a coach and/or advisor to the postsecondary institution prior to reaccreditation. NISSEN shared information on a Joint Enrollment research report the Department is working on which tracks a 2011 cohort of students who experienced joint enrollment opportunities in high school compared to those who did not experience joint enrollment opportunities. It was discussed future PSCAC meetings will be arranged as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.