

## Meeting Minutes of the Senior Year Plus Postsecondary Course Audit Committee

**Members Present:** Beckett, Maxey, Mentzer (zoom), Pease (zoom), Phillips, Ramaeker, Thornton, Van Sickle, Wee

**Department of Education:** Gieseke, Rathje, Varner

**Community Colleges for Iowa:** Wolf

The Senior Year Plus Postsecondary Course Audit Committee (PSCAC) convened on April 13, 2022. The meeting began at 8:30am. RATHJE welcomed members to the meeting and introduced new members of the committee (Ramaeker & Van Sickle).

VARNER discussed the history of the committee and reviewed the group's charge; including the role of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) which focuses on ensuring the quality and rigor of postsecondary courses delivered through the Senior Year Plus/Concurrent Enrollment program.

RATHJE provided the committee with an overview of NACEP's 16 required national standards explaining each standard and the associated accreditation policies and procedures that each of Iowa's 15 community colleges must follow to ensure maintenance of NACEP accreditation.

Thomas Gilmore (Dean of High School Partnerships) and Laura Mendoza (Director of Concurrent Enrollment Compliance & Accreditation), both from Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), joined the meeting virtually via zoom to discuss their institutions progress with NACEP reaccreditation over the past two years. Gilmore and Mendoza discussed details of their program, the accreditation process, including the site visit conducted virtually by their assigned NACEP peer review team. IWCC indicated they have submitted final evidence to NACEP to support identified areas needed for improvement in the A1, F2, and F3 standards. It was discussed that the NACEP Accreditation Commission will determine the institutions accreditation status at their spring meeting. RATHJE indicated the PSCAC will be kept informed on the outcome. Discussions continued around NACEP, WEE spoke about the large administrative burden of the various accreditation processes that institutions face overall. Mendoza shared that IWCC utilized the NACEP accreditation process as an opportunity to take a deep dive into improving the program for students, faculty and school districts. Gilmore and Mendoza left the meeting.

RATHJE provided a reaccreditation status update for each of each of Iowa's 15 community colleges, noting that IWCC was up for final reaccreditation consideration this year and that Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) is working through the reaccreditation process and will have their accreditation voted on by NACEP in the spring of 2023.

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.

RATHJE discussed the voting members of the committee need to take formal action on two items.

- 1) Adopting the audit report from the prior year (FY22) and;
- 2) Setting the audit plan for next year (FY23).

RATHJE 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. RATHJE 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. Floor was open for comments and discussion. Thornton inquired about the committee's charge/responsibility for additional Senior Year Plus programs beyond concurrent enrollment, including Advanced Placement and Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). Consensus of the committee members is they would like an overview of those programs at the next PSCAC meeting.

RATHJE asked for a motion to approve the prior year (FY22) audit report.

Motion: Thornton; Second: Van Sickle;

In favor: All; Opposed: None;

Motion passed unanimously.

RATHJE asked for a motion to approve the 2022-2023 audit plan.

Motion: Phillips; Second: Ramaecker;

In favor: All; Opposed: None;

Motion passed unanimously.

The PSCAC meeting continued with Wolf providing an update over the '22 legislative session discussing several bills including the post-secondary transition scholarship bill, FAFSA Assistance, and the Last Dollar Scholarship bill which would allow part-time students to be eligible for Last Dollar Scholarships.

Due to time, RATHJE provided a high-level overview of the annual Iowa Community Colleges [Joint Enrollment Report](#) and the [Outcomes of Jointly Enrolled Students in Iowa](#) research report. RATHJE also gave an update on the Regional Center Site Location Study that has been commissioned with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Institute for Decision Making (IDM) and GeoTREE. The study is being conducted in an effort to determine the efficient placement/location of regional center facilities across the state.

Final comments discussed the establishment of future PSCAC meetings, and those will be arranged as needed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.