

Summary of Meetings and Conference Calls of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Months of January and February 2008

This is an update for interested members of the AACRAO membership about the ongoing activities of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee. SPEEDE is a committee that is more active year round than many of the other AACRAO standing committees. During this period, the SPEEDE committee reported to the AACRAO Vice President for Information Technology (Group VI), Jerry Bracken.

Face to Face Meetings Held: Three members of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee participated in the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) Workgroup Summit in Washington, DC January 17-18, 2008. The three members of the SPEEDE Committee in attendance then met all day on the Saturday following the PESC meeting.

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee conference calls held (with number of participants): 1/10/08 (6), 1/31/08 (6), 2/7/08 (6), 2/21/08 (7), and 2/28/08 (5). The average number of participants per call was 6.

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Membership: Barry Billing, the representative on the Committee from the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC), is now the Associate Registrar at Conestoga College in Ontario.

Activities related to PESC: AACRAO is a founding member of, and an active participant in PESC.

- Rick Skeel represents AACRAO on the PESC Board of Directors.
- Clare Smith-Larson is a member of the PESC Steering Committee.
- Monique Snowden chairs the Submission Advisory Board.
- Tuan Anh Do and Tom Stewart serve on the Standards Forum Change Control Board.

And, much of the real work of PESC is accomplished in workgroups.

PESC Standards and Workgroups of Interest to AACRAO Members Include:

XML College Transcript - PESC approved this schema as a standard in 2004. It is now a part of the latest version of SunGard Higher Education Banner product and testing is going on in the state of Georgia. ConnectEdu is also working with several states on its implementation.

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XML High School Transcript - The XML High School Transcript was approved as a PESC standard in June 2006. The Implementation Guide Version 1.0.2 in PDF format is available on the PESC web site at www.pesc.org.

The Ontario College Application Service in Canada has been using the PESC XML HS Transcript Standard format since October 2006 with three major school boards and is now in the process of introducing more Ontario school boards to the standard.

The PESC HS Transcript schema is also in the process of being implemented in California and Missouri, and is also being implemented by various vendors such as the National Transcript Center, Docufide and ConnectEdu. As these implementations begin, a few questions are being raised by the implementers about the use of the standard. It appears that some questions may result in changes to the standard, which the workgroup will probably address in the next several months.

During the PESC Workgroup Summit in January, a meeting was held with representative of PESC, the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) Association and the US Department of Education to develop a plan to merge the PESC and SIF standards for the high school transcript into one standard, or at least two standards that are more compatible. A proposal has been submitted to the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to partially fund a process for the harmonization of the two standards.

Course Inventory - This workgroup is co-chaired by Rick Skeel, from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee, and Anne Valentine from SmartCatalog. The group holds regular conference calls and had an all day face to face meeting during the PESC Workgroup Summit in January in Washington, DC..

AACRAO SPEEDE members that participate with this workgroup are Clare Smith-Larson and Tom Stewart. The workgroup would welcome new participants to assist in developing this new standard. If you'd like to participate, contact Rick Skeel at rskeel@ou.edu . You must now be a member of PESC to participate.

Application for Admission - This workgroup holds weekly conference calls each Thursday at noon Eastern Time. Seven calls were held in January and February and an all day, face to face, meeting was held during the PESC Workgroup Summit in January in Washington, DC. The workgroup is chaired by Adriana Farella, from The Catholic University of America, and Tom Stewart of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee assists her. Notes from the workgroup conference calls and a rough draft of the Implementation Guide (in progress) are available on the PESC web site at <http://www.pesc.org>.

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AACRAO SPEEDE members participating on this workgroup are Robin Greene, Clare Smith-Larson, and Tom Stewart. Other regular participants represent Oracle Corporation, SunGard Higher Education, Texas A&M University, University of Lethbridge (Alberta, Canada), and Xap Corporation.

For the past two months, the emphasis by the workgroup has been to review a sample of actual applications for admission to ensure that there is an appropriate unambiguous place in the proposed schema to transmit all of the data collected on the applications for admission.

Within the next two months, the workgroup hopes to submit the draft schema to PESC for its approval as a PESC Standard.

Education Test Score Reporting - Information on this workgroup is located on the www.pesc.org web site under the tab for PESC workgroups. It is developing the PESC XML standard that serves essentially the same purpose as the EDI Transaction Set 138 so that education test scores can be exchanged electronically. Tuan Anh Do, Clare Smith-Larson and Tom Stewart of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee are active participants on this workgroup, along with representatives from ACT, The College Board, Law School Admission Council, University System of Georgia, California Schools Information Service, Oracle Corporation, and SunGard Higher Education.

Transcript Acknowledgment: This schema became an approved PESC XML Standard in July 2007.

Academic Record Batch Submittal: This schema became a PESC XML Standard in July 2007. A request was received by the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee to expand its possible use for schools who use an intermediary agency in the exchange of student records. This change has been submitted to PESC for approval.

Transcript Request and Response: The schemas for the Request for a Student Transcript and also for the Response to that Request for a Student Transcript were approved in October 2007 as PESC standards.

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University of Texas at Austin SPEEDE Internet Server: Shelby Stanfield, University Registrar at UT Austin has provided us with the following information about the use of the Server as of the end of January 2008:

Number of Student Transcripts (EDI TS130) exchanged in January 2008:

85,059 (up 11% from January 2007);

Number of Student Transcripts (EDI TS130) exchanged for the past 12 months:

728,797 (up 11% from the previous year);

Number of schools that sent EDI transcripts in January 2008:

154 (up 4% from January 2007);

Number of schools that received EDI transcripts in January 2008:

266 (up 14% from January 2007);

Total number of EDI transactions (includes Transcripts, Acknowledgments of Receipt of an EDI Transcript, Requests for an EDI Transcript, Negative Response to the Request for an EDI Transcript, Transmission of EDI Education Test Scores, and Functional Acknowledgments) **sent in January 2008:**

356,603 (up 14% from January 2007);

Total number of EDI transactions sent during the past 12 months:

2,774,421 (up 19% from the previous year)

Other SPEEDE Activities in January and February:

RIP-X: A new document called "Recommended Implementation Practices for the PESC XML College Transcript Schema" was completed by the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee, was posted earlier on SPEEDE-L. It is similar in nature to the RIPS document for the EDI Transaction Set for the College Transcript. It has also now been posted to the AACRAO Web site and can be found at http://www.aacrao.org/speede/Guides/RecommendedImplPracticesforPESCXMLCollegeTrans_v1_20071014.pdf .

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Kuali Open Source Student Information System: One of the goals of this open source student system that is being developed by five universities in the US and Canada is to use existing international data standards where they exist. The University of British Columbia is the lead developer and Florida State University is another primary developer. The Kuali developers have expressed interest in using PESC Standards as one of its primary resources. It is hoped that the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee can meet with the Kuali developers at the July AACRAO Technology Conference to support the Kuali effort.

Work in Progress:

Texas A&M University is working with the University of Texas at Austin to program the EDI to XML (and vice versa) crosswalk for the College Transcript.

An Electronic Data Exchange Primer for both EDI and XML is being prepared. The purpose is to provide a document that will tell you what you need to know about electronic exchanges of student data and how to get started.

Future Meetings: The following are future events at which the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee normally meets and presents program sessions:

AACRAO Annual Conference: To be held at the Orlando World Center Marriott Hotel **March 24-27, 2008**. The AACRAO SPEEDE committee typically meets for one day either prior to or immediately following the conference.

PESC 5th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards : To be held at the Hyatt Regency Washington, DC on Capitol Hill **April 28-30, 2008**. AACRAO SPEEDE typically meets for two days prior to the conference.

AACRAO Technology Conference: To be held at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, MD **July 10-12, 2008**. In the past, members of AACRAO SPEEDE have all made program presentations at this important conference.

PESC Fall Workgroup Summit: This meeting is normally held in October for two days and the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee in the past has met for a day or two either before or after.

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AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Members for 2007-2008:

Barry Billing, Vice-Chair	Associate Registrar, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, and representative to the AACRAO SPEEDE committee from the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)	bbilling@conestogac.on.ca
Tuan Anh Do	Assistant Director, Systems Support Group, Undergraduate Admissions, San Francisco State University (CA)	doey@sfsu.edu
Robin S. Greene	Interim Director of Technology and Internet Services, College Foundation of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Systems Office	greeners@northcarolina.edu
Bruce Marton	Associate Director, Student Information Systems, Office of Admissions/Registrar, University of Texas at Austin	bruce.marton@austin.utexas.edu
Linda Sather	Programmer and Senior Analyst, Office of the Registrar, University of Idaho	lsather@uidaho.edu
Mark D. Simpson	University Registrar, Weber State University (UT)	marksimpson1@weber.edu
Rick Skeel	Director of Academic Records, University of Oklahoma	rskeel@ou.edu
Clare Smith-Larson	SPEEDE/Project EASIER Coordinator, Iowa State University	cssmith@iastate.edu
Monique Snowden, Chair	Assistant Dean of Enrollment Management, School of Continuing Studies, Northwestern University (IL)	msnowden@northwestern.edu
John T. "Tom" Stewart	Retired College Registrar, Miami Dade College (FL)	stewartj@aol.com

And that's the news for the past two months from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee.