

Summary of Meetings and Conference Calls of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Months of July and August 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. The SPEEDE committee reports to the AACRAO Vice President for Information Technology (Group VI), Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith.

Face to Face Meetings Held: 1 (at the AACRAO Tech Conference in Baltimore) with 8 members present.

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee conference calls held (with number of participants): 7/17/08 (4), 7/31/08 (6), 8/7/08 (5), 8/14/08 (8), 8/21/08 (9), and 8/28/08 (6). The average number of participants per call was 6.

Activities related to PESC: AACRAO is a founding member of, and an active supporter and participant in the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). PESC is the standards setting organization for the electronic exchange of student records in higher education.

- Rick Skeel represents AACRAO on the PESC Board of Directors.
- Clare Smith-Larson is a member of the PESC Steering Committee.
- Tuan Anh Do and Tom Stewart serve on the Change Control Board.
- Tuan Anh Do serves on the Technical Advisory 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 May 2004. PESC approved a new version (1.1.0) of the schema in October 2007. The three .xsd files to view the schema with a reader such as Altova Corporation's XMLSpy, and Version 1.1.1 of the Implementation Guide are posted on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=164. It is recommended that all users update to Version 1.1.0 of the schema. However, all users who have updated to the latest version can still accept all documents created with Version 1.0.0. All users of Version 1.0.0 can also receive documents created in Version 1.1.0 provided that no data was included that use the new data elements, or new values of old data elements.

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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 and the three .xsd files to view the schema are available on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=163 .

XML Course Inventory - This workgroup is co-chaired by Rick Skeel, from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee, and Anne Valentine from SmartCatalog. This schema is similar to the EDI TS188. AACRAO SPEEDE members that participate with this workgroup are Clare Smith-Larson and Tom Stewart. .

XML Application for Admission - This workgroup held weekly conference calls for about two years. 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 the latest draft of the Implementation Guide are available on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=136 . Clare Smith-Larson and Robin Greene are other AACRAO SPEEDE members who actively participated in this workgroup.

For the past month, Tom and Adriana have been presenting the draft schema for approval of the PESC Change Control Board on its weekly conference calls. This request for approval is expected to take another month or more, due to the complex nature of this schema.

Education Test Score Reporting - Information on this PESC workgroup is located on the web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=132 . 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.

Transcript Acknowledgment: This schema became an approved PESC XML Standard in July 2007. Information about this Standard is located on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=184 .

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Academic Record Batch Submittal: Since each XML instance document is a stand-alone document for transmission, several schools and agencies had asked for some way to bundle multiple XML documents in the same manner that multiple EDI documents were bundled inside the ISA/IEA envelope.

This schema became a PESC XML Standard in July 2007 and information about this Standard may be viewed on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=185 .

Transcript Request and Response: The XML 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.

An updated version of the Implementation Guide (Version 1.0.1) has been prepared for the XML Request for a Student Transcript. No changes were made to the schema, but several recommendations were modified to allow for the requestor to specify that the transcript be released after a specified future date, or after a specified future event has occurred. The .xsd files and the two Implementation Guides are available on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=174 .

Standardization of PDF Education Documents: A new workgroup is now being formed to deal with the issue of standardization of PDF documents and their electronic transmission. Jim Bouse of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has volunteered to co-chair this new group. It plans to hold its first real meeting at the PESC Workgroup Summit in October in the DC area and the scope of the workgroup should be decided at that meeting.

Functional Acknowledgment for XML Documents: Another new workgroup is being formed to create the XML equivalent of the EDI TS 997. Rob Moore from the National Transcript Center and Barry Billing and Monterey Sims from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee have volunteered to spearhead this workgroup. The first meeting is scheduled for the PESC Workgroup Summit in Arlington, VA in October.

Degree Audit: Jason Elwood from DARS (now red Lantern) chaired this workgroup several years ago, but it never completed its work. There is new interest in this area and the workgroup is being re-activated. Mark Simpson from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has volunteered to co-chair this newly activated group which is scheduled to meet on October 7 at the PESC Workgroup Summit.

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New User Group for Approved XML and EDI Standards: PESC is in the process of forming a new user group that will deal with maintenance for all of the approved XML schemas, as well as all of the ANSI ASX X12 EDI Standards for the admissions and student records area. In the future as they are approved, the User Group may also consider modification to the Application for Admission, Course Catalog and Education Test Score Reporting schemas, as well.

Tuan Anh Do of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has volunteered to co-chair the User Group, and all members of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee plan to be active with this new group.

Among the items for discussion proposed at this time are

- a. Adding accreditation information on the XML College Transcript;
- b. Clarification about use of the feature to ask for delay of the release (when requesting an XML Transcript) until a degree or grades are posted;
- c. The addition of a more complete summary, of credits required and completed by curriculum area for a diploma, on an XML High School Transcript;
- d. The use of a NTE segment to provide the new Race and Ethnicity information for the EDI TS 189 Application for Admission.

The first meeting of the User Group is scheduled for October 6, 2008 at the PESC Fall Workgroup Summit at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, VA. Information about this meeting is at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=187

IPEDS Reporting to NCES via PESC XML Schemas: The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has submitted a proposal to PESC to give schools another option (XML transmissions) for reporting IPEDS data to them. This would be a third option, in addition to using the NCES IPEDS web site and (for larger schools) to FTP the data in fixed length fields. The PESC Change Control Board is in the process of approving these 9 new schemas.

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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 August 2008:

Description	Last Year	This Year	Percent Change
Number of TS130 Transcripts for August	72,372	73,442	1%
Number of TS130 Transcripts for past 12 months	677,269	808,054	19%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for August	54,448	56,981	5%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for past 12 months	542,012	651,209	20%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for August	33,697	39,159	16%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for past 12 months	661,780	831,822	26%
Number of Total Transactions for August **	206,611	210,749	2%
Number of Total Transactions for past 12 months **	2,486,567	3,086,579	24%
Number of TS130 Sending Schools in August	152	152	0%
Average Number of TS130 Sending Schools per month for past 12 months	156	153	-2%
Number of TS130 Receiving Schools in August	248	250	1%
Average Number of TS130 Receiving Schools per month for past 12 months	237	252	7%

** Total Transactions include TS130 Transcripts, TS131 Acknowledgments, TS997 Functional Acknowledgments, TS 189 Applications for Admission, and TS138 Test Scores.

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The school that sent the most TS130 transcripts (4,836) in August was Blinn College in Texas. Lone Star College in Texas was next (4,068), then Maricopa Colleges in Arizona (4,023).

The school that received the most TS 130 Transcripts in August was Florida Atlantic University with 7,411. Texas A&M University was next with 5,713, followed by the University of Central Florida with 4,505.

The states with the most schools sending TS 130 transcripts were Texas with 54, followed by Arkansas with 19, and Oregon with 18.

The states with the most schools receiving TS 130 transcripts were Texas with 103, followed by Arkansas with 29, and Oregon with 21.

In August, there were also 168 PESC XML Transcripts exchanged via the Texas Internet Server. Xap Corporation sent 71 to the National Transcript Center and the National Transcript Center sent 69 to Xap Corporation. There were also 9 exchanged among Georgia schools and the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities sent 16 PESC XML transcripts to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

State and Province Electronic Transmission Initiatives and Mandates: The SPEEDE Committee recently updated a spreadsheet of all the mandates and initiatives of which we are aware in each US State and Canadian Province. We encourage you to review the spreadsheet to insure it is up to date for your state or province. It is now posted on the SPEEDE page on the AACRAO web site at <http://www.aacrao.org/speede/statestat.cfm>.

Other SPEEDE 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. Texas A&M has completed its part for the XML to EDI program and it is now in the process of being tested by TAMU.

In the ANSI ASC X12 EDI world, the Committee has made a recommendation to standardize a NTE segment in the EDI TS189 to allow transmission of the newly mandated (by the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics) Race and Ethnicity codes. These new codes ask one question about the ethnicity of the student, and another question about 5 categories of race. The race question is repeatable. We hope to get this recommendation endorsed by the new PESC User Group on October 6.

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Future Meetings: The following are future events at which the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee normally participates:

PESC Fall Workgroup Summit: This meeting is tentatively scheduled at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA on October 6-7, 2008 and the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee plans to meet at the hotel on Sunday, October 5. The new PESC Transcript User Group and other active work groups plan to meet during this summit.

PESC Annual Conference and Workgroup Meetings April 6-8, 2009: This meeting is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. PESC workgroups and the new PESC Transcript User Group will also meet.

AACRAO Annual Meeting in Chicago April 13-16, 2009 at McCormick Place West in Chicago, Illinois. The AACRAO SPEEDE committee normally meets for one day before or after the annual meeting.

AACRAO Technology Conference in Tucson, AZ July 19-21, 2009: This Sunday through Tuesday conference is at the JW Starr Pass Resort & Spa.

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AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Members for 2008-2009:

Barry Billing, Chair	Associate Registrar, Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Ontario), and representative to the AACRAO SPEEDE committee from the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)	bbilling@conestogac.on.ca
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And that's the update for the past two months from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee.