

Summary of Meetings and Conference Calls of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Months of May and June 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: None.

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee conference calls held (with number of participants): 5/1/08 (7), 5/8/08 (8), 5/15/08 (7), 5/22/08 (7), 5/29/08 (6), 6/5/08 (7), 6/12/08 (3), 6/19/08 (7), and 6/26/08 (7). The average number of participants per call was 7.

New Projects Completed by the SPEEDE Committee: With the help of one of our newest committee members, the Committee has drafted a set of questions about the SPEEDE Committee. The questions include what does the Committee do, and what is expected of a member of the Committee. These questions and answers are now posted on the SPEEDE web page of the AACRAO web site at <http://www.aacrao.org/speede> .

Activities related to PESC: AACRAO is a founding member of, and an active participant in the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). PESC is the standards setting organization for the 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 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 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. In addition, Version 1.1.1 of the Implementation Guide is also posted on the PESC web site. 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

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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.

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.

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. It serves a dual purpose of transmission of information (1) to a vendor that is required to prepare the College Catalog for printing or display on the College's web site or (2) to respond to a request from another school's transcript evaluator for additional information about one or more courses. This group is planning to submit a request for the schema's approval to the PESC Change Control Board within the next four to six months. 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 each Thursday at noon Eastern Time. Two calls were held in May. 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 draft of the Implementation Guide are available on the PESC web site at <http://www.pesc.org>.

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

For the past month or so, preparations are being made to present the draft schema for approval to the PESC Change Control Board. Tentative plans are to begin this presentation on July 25. This request for approval is expected to take a month or so due to the complex nature of this schema.

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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: 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.

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 was submitted to PESC for approval and was approved as Version 2.0.0 by PESC in April 2008. The .xsd files and the Implementation Guide are available on the PESC web site.

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.

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.

New User Group: PESC is in the process of forming a new user group for all of the XML schemas approved by PESC. At this time, it includes the suite of transcript schemas. In the future, it may also include the Application for Admission, Course Catalog and Education Test Score Reporting schemas, as well.

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New Workgroups: PESC is also considering the formation of two new Workgroups.

One would be to determine if standards are needed for the transmission of PDF documents, and if so, what would these standards look like.

The second would be to explore a new schema to serve the same purpose as the EDI TS 997 (functional acknowledgment). A concern was raised that there is no good automated way to let the sender of an XML instance document know that there were errors in the transmission that prevented the receiver from automatically processing the documents.

IPEDS Reporting to NCES via PESC XML Schemas: The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has submitted several proposals 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.

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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 June 2008:

Description	Last Year	This Year	Percent Change
Number of TS130 Transcripts for June	73,151	102,280	40%
Number of TS130 Transcripts for past 12 months	682,925	793,652	16%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for June	57,906	85,752	48%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for past 12 months	544,939	640,593	18%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for June	37,921	42,624	12%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for past 12 months	620,855	819,693	32%
Number of Total Transactions for June **	206,611	302,390	46%
Number of Total Transactions for past 12 months **	2,468,803	3,035,561	23%
Number of TS130 Sending Schools in June	166	166	0%
Average Number of TS130 Sending Schools per month for past 12 months	155	152	-2%
Number of TS130 Receiving Schools in June	251	266	6%
Average Number of TS130 Receiving Schools per month for past 12 months	232	251	8%

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

The school that sent the most TS130 transcripts (3,209) in June 2008 was Blinn College in Texas. Lone Star College in Texas was next with 2,528 TS130 transcripts.

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UT Austin Server Recent Milestones: In January 2008, the Server delivered its 4 Millionth TS130 Transcript and its One Millionth Test Score Report. In April 2008, the Server delivered its 14 Millionth total transaction. These numbers include deliveries since the server began its operation in 1995.

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 web page on the AACRAO web site at <http://www.aacrao.org/speede> .

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.

In the ANSI ASC X12 EDI world, the Committee is working on 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.

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

PESC Fall Workgroup Summit: This meeting is tentatively scheduled at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City in the Washington, DC area on October 6-7, 2008 and the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee plans to meet at the hotel on Sunday, October 5. The new PESC/AACRAO 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/AACRAO Transcript User Group will also meet.

AACRAO Annual Meeting in Chicago April 13-16, 2009 at McCormick Place West in Chicago, Illinois. The conference hotel is the Hilton which is about a mile from the conference center. The AACRAO SPEEDE committee normally meets for one day before or after the annual meeting.

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AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Members for 2008-2009:

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