

## **Summary of Meetings and Conference Calls of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Months of November and December 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):** 11/13/08 (6), 11/20/08 (7), 12/4/08 (7), 12/11/08 (8), and 12/18/08 (5). The average and the median number of participants per call was 7.

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

- Rick Skeel represents AACRAO on the PESC Board of Directors.
- Clare Smith-Larson is the vice-chair of the PESC Steering Committee.
- Tuan Anh Do and Tom Stewart serve on the Change Control Board.
- Tuan Anh Do also 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](http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=164). It is recommended that all users update to Version 1.1.0 of the schema. 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 were 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 files to needed to view the schema (Version 1.0.0) are available on the PESC web site at [http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page\\_id=163](http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=163) .

**XML Course Inventory** - This somewhat inactive 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](http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=136) . Clare Smith-Larson and Robin Greene are other AACRAO SPEEDE members who actively participate in this workgroup.

Adriana presented the schema for approval of the PESC Change Control Board and it was approved. The next step is posting the schema with the draft Implementation Guide on the PESC web site for a 30 day review and comment period of the higher education community. It is anticipated that this will now occur in January of 2009.

**XML 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](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. Michael Morris from ACT, Incorporated has begun the approval process with the PESC Change Control Board.

**XML 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](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](http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=185) .

**XML 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](http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=174) . The latest Guide (4/20/08) is more appropriate for a school requesting a transcript from a current or prior school attended by a student.

**Standardization of PDF Education Documents:** A new workgroup has been formed to deal with the issue of standardization of PDF documents and their electronic transmission. Armando Rodríguez from Xap Corporation and Jim Bouse of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee co-chair this new group. It held its first meeting at the PESC Workgroup Summit in October in the DC area. It now holds regular conference calls and welcomes the participation of anyone whose school or company is a member of PESC.

**XML Functional Acknowledgment of XML Instance Documents:** Another new workgroup was formed to create the XML equivalent of the EDI TS 997. Rob Moore from the National Transcript Center and Monterey Sims from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee are the co-chairs of this workgroup. The first meeting was held at the PESC Workgroup Summit in Arlington, VA in October and it is now holding regular conference calls and welcomes participation from anyone whose school or company is a member of PESC.

**Academic Progress (formerly Degree Audit):** Clare Smith-Larson from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has volunteered to co-chair this newly activated group which met on October 7 at the PESC Workgroup Summit and new participants are welcome.

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**New User Group for Approved XML and EDI Standards:** PESC formed a new user group (Education Record User Group) that will deal with maintenance of all of the approved XML schemas in the student records area, as well as all of the ANSI ASC X12 EDI Standards for the admissions and student records area. In the future, as they are approved, the User Group will also consider modifications to the Application for Admission, Course Catalog and Education Test Score Reporting schemas, as well.

Tuan Anh Do of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee volunteered to co-chair the User Group. The other co-chair is Dr. Barbara Clements from the National Transcript Center. All members of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee plan to be active with this new group and other participants whose schools or companies are members of PESC are welcome.

Among the items being discussed by the User Group are

- a. Adding regional accreditation information on the XML Student Transcript;
- b. Clarification in the documentation about the 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 addition of a new optional data element to specify a student's high school program of study in the XML High School Transcript;
- e. The addition of an optional User Defined Extension in the Transmission Data area of XML schemas.

The first meeting of the User Group was held October 6, 2008 at the PESC Fall Workgroup Summit at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Crystal City in Arlington, VA. It held its first conference call in December 2008.

**New AACRAO Publication on Electronic Exchanges of Student Records (EDX):** Under the leadership of Clare Smith-Larson, the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee developed a new publication for AACRAO. It is now available for purchase from AACRAO. It was released at the end of 2008.

### Current Activities of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee:

**AACRAO Consulting:** The SPEEDE Committee has been holding discussions with the AACRAO Consulting Service and plans to make the expertise of the committee available to the Service in the areas of electronic student records exchange.

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**Electronic Requests for Student Transcripts:** Angela Debose, University Registrar at the University of South Florida, asked the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee to explore providing a data base of schools that will honor electronic requests for student transcripts. ANSI ASC X12 TS146 and the PESC XML Request for Student Transcripts provide the means to process these requests, but there is no easy and reliable way to know which schools will return a transcript based on that request.

The AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has agreed to explore this idea and Amy Berg and Monterey Sims from the University of Phoenix are beginning a project to gather the data.

**New NCES Race and Ethnicity Codes:** The SPEEDE Committee has recommended the use of the NTE Segment in ANSI ASC X12 TS189 to include the ethnicity and the multiple race codes. Upon approval of the PESC Education Record User Group, new versions of the EDI TS189 Implementation Guides will be posted to the PESC web site.

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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 December 2008:

Description	Last Year	This Year	Percent Change
Number of TS130 Transcripts for December	61,836	71,851	16%
Number of TS130 Transcripts for past 12 months	720,149	858,174	19%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for December	47,982	52,588	10%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for past 12 months	580,895	690,814	19%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for December	110,170	128,654	17%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for past 12 months	754,169	908,140	20%
Number of Total Transactions for December **	314,558	381,681	21%
Number of Total Transactions for past 12 months **	2,730,742	3,374,768	24%
Number of TS130 Sending Schools in December ***	152	152	0%
Average Number of TS130 Sending Schools per month for past 12 months ***	159	152	-4%
Number of TS130 Receiving Schools in December ***	241	261	8%
Average Number of TS130 Receiving Schools per month for past 12 months ***	241	261	8%

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

\*\*\* In addition to this number of schools, there are other entities that distribute transcripts through the Server, such as Florida K-12, Florida Postsecondary, Texas Education Agency and the National Transcript Center.

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The schools or other entities that sent the most TS130 transcripts through the UT Austin SPEEDE Server in December were Florida Public Postsecondary Schools (10,327), Florida Public High Schools (9,579), North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (9,283), National Transcript Center on behalf of the Texas Education Agency (4,786), Maricopa Community Colleges in Arizona (3,950), Lone Star College in Texas (2,479), and Blinn College in Texas (2,506).

The schools or other entities that received the most TS130 Transcripts in December through the UT Austin SPEEDE Server were the College Foundation of North Carolina (9,283 high school transcripts), Florida Atlantic University (7,492), University of South Florida (5,685), University of Central Florida (4,482), and Arizona State University (3,952).

Schools in eighteen US states and two Canadian provinces sent TS130 transcripts through the Server in December.

Schools in twenty-four US states and two Canadian provinces received TS 130 transcripts from the Server in December. The states with the most schools receiving TS 130 transcripts were Texas (107), Arkansas (30), and Oregon (21).

In addition, about 50 PESC XML Transcripts are exchanged through the Server each month.

A new trend of increased volume of EDI high school transcripts appeared in 2008. The state of Florida continues to lead the nation as virtually 100% of Florida public high schools transmit EDI transcripts. However, the state of North Carolina is now showing impressive volumes of EDI high school transcripts. In addition, the Texas Education Agency has partnered with the National Transcript Center to facilitate the sending of electronic high school transcripts, and the numbers are now impressive. The state has also mandated that all public postsecondary schools have the ability to accept them.

**State and Province Electronic Transmission Initiatives and Mandates:** The SPEEDE Committee recently updated a spreadsheet of all the activities, 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. Please send updates and corrections to [stewartj@aol.com](mailto:stewartj@aol.com). It is now posted on the SPEEDE page on the AACRAO web site at <http://www.aacrao.org/speede/statestat.cfm> .

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

**PESC Annual Conference on Standards and Workgroup Meetings April 6-8, 2009:**

This Monday through Wednesday meeting is scheduled for the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Most of the active PESC workgroups and the new PESC Education Record User Group will also meet.

**AACRAO Annual Meeting in Chicago April 13-16, 2009** (Monday through Thursday) at McCormick Place West. All meetings will be held at the Conference Center. The conference hotel is the Hilton on South Michigan Avenue. The AACRAO SPEEDE committee plans to meet after the end of the annual meeting.

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

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### AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Members for 2008-2009:

Barry Billing, <b>Chair</b>	Associate Registrar, <i>Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Ontario)</i> , and representative to the AACRAO SPEEDE committee from the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC)	<a href="mailto:bbilling@conestogac.on.ca">bbilling@conestogac.on.ca</a>
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**And that's the update for the past two months from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee.**