

Summary of Meetings and Conference Calls of the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Months of January and February 2009

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): 1/8/09 (7), 1/15/09 (8), 1/22/09 (8), 1/29/09 (6), 2/5/09 (8), 2/12/09 (7), 2/19/09 (6) and 2/26/09 (8). The average 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 now 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. 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.

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 view the schema (Version 1.0.0) are available on the PESC web site at http://www.pesc.org/interior.php?page_id=163.

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

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.

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 March 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. 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 presented the schema for approval of the PESC Change Control Board and it was approved. The next step is posting it to the PESC web site for a 30 day comment period. It is anticipated that this will be done in March or April 2009.

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.

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.

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

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

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 . 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 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. It held regular conference calls and is almost ready to present the schema to the PESC Change Control Board for approval.

Academic Progress (formerly Degree Audit): Clare Smith-Larson from the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee has volunteered to co-chair this newly activated group which has its first conference call scheduled for March 6 and new participants are welcome.

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 is a co-chair of 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;

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

- 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.
- f. A minor modification to the XML Request for a Student Transcript to allow a sender of the request to indicate that an earlier request has been canceled. This would be an additional enumerated value of "Cancel" to the simple data element "DocumentTypeCode".

It now holds conference calls on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 2 pm Eastern.

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.

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. They plan to present the results of the survey at the AACRAO Technology Conference in Tucson in July. The Texas SPEEDE Internet Server is exploring a modification of its participant table to specify those schools that will honor electronic transcript requests from other schools.

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

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. This was approved by the PESC Education Record User Group, and a new version of the EDI TS189 Implementation Guides has been posted to the PESC web site.

New Country Codes for TS130 Implementation Guide: Appendix B of the Implementation Guide has been updated with new country codes and the revised Appendix has been posted to the PESC web site.

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

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 February 2009:

Description	Last Year	This Year	Percent Change
Number of TS130 Transcripts for February	53,399	70,282	32%
Number of TS130 Transcripts for past 12 months	737,561	884,539	20%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for February	47,773	53,496	12%
Number of TS131 Transcript Acknowledgments for past 12 months	598,684	706,898	18%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for February	70,383	76,173	8%
Number of TS189 Applications for Admission for past 12 months	784,446	926,686	18%
Number of Total Transactions for February **	238,888	274,140	15%
Number of Total Transactions for past 12 months **	2,827,644	3,437,776	22%
Number of TS130 Sending Schools in February ***	142	161	13%
Average Number of TS130 Sending Schools per month for past 12 months ***	157	154	-2%
Number of TS130 Receiving Schools in February ***	254	286	13%
Average Number of TS130 Receiving Schools per month for past 12 months ***	245	265	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, Triand, and the National Transcript Center.

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

The schools or other entities that sent the most TS130 transcripts through the UT Austin SPEEDE Server in February were Florida Public High Schools (12,527), Florida Public Postsecondary Schools (7,112), North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (4,621) facilitated via the College Foundation of North Carolina's statewide college access web portal, XAP on behalf of CCTran in California (3,989), National Transcript Center on behalf of the Texas Education Agency (3,859), and Triand on behalf of Public High Schools in Arkansas (2,716).

Schools in sixteen US states and one Canadian province sent TS130 transcripts through the Server in February.

In addition, 135 PESC XML College Transcripts were exchanged among 10 postsecondary schools in Georgia through the Texas SPEEDE Server in February.

A new trend of increased volume of EDI high school transcripts continued in early 2009. 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 and has mandated 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. A similar mandate in Arkansas has resulted in large numbers of EDI High School Transcripts being exchanged there.

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. It is now posted on the SPEEDE page on the AACRAO web site at <http://www.aacrao.org/speede/statestat.cfm> .

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

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 McCormick Conference Center. The conference hotel is the Hilton on South Michigan Avenue. The AACRAO SPEEDE committee plans to meet on Monday afternoon during 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.

January and February 2009 Report from AACRAO SPEEDE Committee

AACRAO SPEEDE Committee Members for 2008-2009:

Barry Billing, Chair	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)	bbilling@conestogac.on.ca
James M. "Jim" Bouse	Associate Registrar for Technology, <i>University of Oregon</i>	jbouse@uoregon.edu
Tuan Anh Do, Vice-Chair	Assistant Director, Systems Support Group, Undergraduate Admissions, <i>San Francisco State University (CA)</i>	doey@sfsu.edu
Robin S. Greene	Senior Associate Director of Technology and Internet Services, College Foundation of North Carolina, <i>University of North Carolina General Administration</i>	greeners@northcarolina.edu
Monterey E. Sims	Director of Operations/Intake, <i>University of Phoenix (AZ)</i>	monterey.sims@phoenix.edu
Rick Skeel	Director of Academic Records, <i>University of Oklahoma</i>	rskeel@ou.edu
Clare Smith-Larson	SPEEDE/Project EASIER Coordinator, <i>Iowa State University</i>	cssmith@iastate.edu
John T. "Tom" Stewart	Retired College Registrar, <i>Miami Dade College (FL)</i>	stewartj@aol.com
Tim Tashjian	Associate Director, Student Information Systems, Office of the Registrar, <i>University of Texas at Austin</i>	tim.tashjian@austin.utexas.edu

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