Minutes of the W-SARA Steering Committee  
Monday, October 20, 2014 ~ 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Call

Steering committee members present  
Joann Rieselbach (AK), school relations manager, Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education  
Chris Bustamante (AZ), president, Rio Salado College  
Laura Palmer-Noone (AZ), board member, Lumina Foundation  
Mary Ellen Petrisko (CA), president, WASC Senior College and University Commission  
Marcia Bankirer (CO), president, Denver School of Nursing  
Toni Larson (CO), executive director, Independent Higher Education of Colorado  
Traci Bent (ID), chief planning and policy officer, Idaho State Board of Education  
Crystal Abba (NV), vice chancellor for academic & student affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Sona Andrews (OR), provost and vice president for academic affairs, Portland State University  
Don Bennett (WA), deputy director, Washington Student Achievement Council

Steering committee members absent  
Carol Liu (CA), senator, California State Senate  
Heather DeLange (CO), academic policy officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education *voted via email*  
Jessica Brubaker (MT), staff attorney, Montana University System (MUS)  
Jane Sherman (WA), vice provost for academic policy and evaluation, Washington State University

W-SARA staff present  
John Lopez, director  
Alan Contreras, coordinator  
Michelle Perez-Robles, office manager

Welcome  
John Lopez called the meeting to order. Lopez introduced Don Bennett and welcomed committee members.
Overview and discussion of application review packet

Arizona:
Legal Authority: 15-1742-Authority of governor to enter compact; terms of compact
The governor, for and in behalf of the state, may enter into compacts for western regional cooperation in higher education.

15-1747-Reciprocity agreement for distance education
(A) The Arizona board of regents, community college districts and the state board of private postsecondary education, through intergovernmental agreement, may enter into an interstate reciprocity agreement for the purpose of managing postsecondary distance education.

The Arizona SARA Council (“Council”) is the portal entity for the Arizona State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (“Arizona SARA”) and has the authority and responsibility to resolve SARA-related complaints.

The committee requested a provision to address specifics regarding a tribal college representative. Toni Larson moved to approve Arizona’s participation in SARA. Marcia Bankirer seconded the motion. Chris Bustamante abstained from the vote on Arizona’s participation in SARA.

The committee unanimously approved Arizona’s participation in SARA.

Oregon:
Legal Authority: ORS 351.75
(i) Have the authority to enter into and administer interstate agreements regarding the provision of post-secondary distance education. The participation by an educational institution that is not based in this state in distance learning courses or programs that are part of an interstate agreement entered into and administered under this paragraph does not constitute operating in this state for purposes of ORS 348.594 to 348.615

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is the designated SARA portal agency.

Lopez recommended conditional approval of the Oregon application pending additional clarity on a plan for student records in the case of catastrophe, teach out and refund policies.

Crystal Abba moved for conditional approval. Mary Ellen seconded the motion. Sona Andrews abstained from the vote on Oregon’s participation in SARA.

The committee unanimously approved Oregon’s conditional participation in SARA.

South Dakota:
Legal Authority: Executive Order 2014-9 and Section 1, Chapter 96-2014 of the Sessions Laws, codified as SDCL § 13-48-42.

A review of the state’s application materials revealed that the newly created Board Policy Number 1:29 closely mirrored NC-SARA and W-SARA policies and standards thus effectively eliminating the need for substantive changes. W-SARA staff provided editorial recommendations to language SDBOR staff drafted specific to its state structures that interface with SARA requirements.
The South Dakota Board of Regents is the designated SARA portal agency.

Andrews moved to approve South Dakota’s participation in SARA. Larson seconded the motion.

The committee unanimously approved South Dakota’s participation in SARA.

Lopez motioned to move Arizona, Oregon and South Dakota forward to the WICHE commission meeting for final approval.

The committee unanimously approved moving all three states forward for final approval.

Heather DeLange cast her vote in favor of all three states becoming W-SARA members via email on Oct. 20.

**SARA updates**

Lopez provided an update to committee members on the status of New Mexico and Wyoming, stating each state has necessary legislation to move forward with their application to participate in SARA. They both expect to move forward by the end of 2014 or early 2015. David Longanecker and Lopez have meetings in California to obtain the status on California’s participation in SARA.

**Review W-SARA 2015 application deadlines and steering committee schedule**

Michelle Perez-Robles provided committee members with the proposed 2015 application deadlines and steering committee meeting dates. The W-SARA state portal agency representatives and W-SARA steering committee members will meet on July 29, 2015, in Boulder, Colorado.

**The 2015 steering committee schedule is as follows:**

- Application deadline #1 – April 15, 2015
- Application deadline #2 – July 15, 2015
- Application deadline #3 – October 15, 2015
- W-SARA Conference call – April 29, 2015
- W-SARA Meeting - Boulder – July 29, 2015
- W-SARA Conference call – October 29, 2015

**WICHE commission dates**

- May 10-11, 2015
- November 2-3, 2015