

Higher Education Advisory Board Meeting

September 17, 2020 | 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

NM Higher Education Department

GoToMeeting Video Conference

Board Members:

Dr. Dan Arvizu, Chancellor, New Mexico State University

Dr. Ann Filemyr, President, Southwestern College

Dan García, Vice President for Enrollment Management, UNM

Monica Gonzalez, Resource Faculty, Student Success Advocate, Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso

Dr. Elmer Guy, President, Navajo Technical University

Dr. Monty Harris, Faculty Chair, New Mexico State University-Carlsbad

Kathy Keith, Executive Director of the LANL Community Programs Office

Victor Leon, Chief Information Officer, Central New Mexico Community College

Dr. Olin Cleve McDaniel, Vice President for Administration and Finance, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Dr. Cindy Rooney, Chancellor, University of New Mexico-Los Alamos

Dr. Becky Rowley, President, Santa Fe Community College

Dr. Joe Shepard, President, Western New Mexico University

Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

Absent: N/A

NMHED Staff Members:

Frances Bannowsky, Director-Adult Ed

Mark Chisholm, Director-Academic Affairs & Policy

Stephanie Rodriguez, Acting Cabinet Secretary

Harrison Rommel, Director-Financial Aid & Institutional Finance

Members of the Public:

Kathy Ulibarri, NMICC

Ricardo Rel, NMSU

Ty Trujillo, UNM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 2:14 p.m. by Dr. Becky Rowley.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- *Member Filemyr moved to adopt the agenda. Member Arvizu seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- *Member Shepard moved to approve the June 15, 2020 Minutes. Member Keith seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

III. HED UPDATES ---- Stephanie Rodriguez, HED Acting Cabinet Secretary

- Stephanie Rodriguez was introduced and welcomed as the HED Acting Cabinet Secretary.
 - Secretary Rodriguez commented that higher education is ahead of the curve with regard to Covid-19 response in ensuring the safety of our students, faculty and staff.
- **Initiatives:**
 - Preparing to evaluate GEAR UP Applications (11) and will issue award announcements by September 24 – total amount is \$4M.
 - Identify higher education priorities and work collaboratively to ensure that we are all successful.

- Review the Strategic Plan to identify our priorities, strategies and goals for moving forward in the post-Covid environment and economic recovery environment.
- Course Numbering System: HED is attending association meetings to review next steps.
- Secretary Rodriguez appreciates each institution's student-centered approach to higher education and is looking forward to working together as part of the Covid-19 response to the economic recovery efforts.
- **Ability to Benefit – Extensions of Title IV Financial Aid – Harrison Rommel, Director-Financial Aid & Institutional Finance**
 - Student Eligibility for Financial Aid – Academic Qualifications
 - PowerPoint Presentation Overview:
 - Review general academic qualifications for federal student aid under the Higher Education Act Title IV.
 - Recognize that, for the purposes of establishing Title IV eligibility, there are both federal and state recognized high school equivalencies.
 - Identify which students are Title IV eligible when they are not high school graduates.
 - Articulate the meaning of “eligible career pathway program.”
 - Q. How do we know if the institution has met the 7 criteria for a program? A. It is up to the institution to determine and document it. No endorsement is required of HED or local workforce agencies. Will want to show evidence of workforce preparation activities and trainings and align those with the skill needs of the student.
 - Ability to Benefit – Approved Tests:
 - Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (WBST), Combined English Language Skills (CELSA), ACCUPLACER
 - Ability to Benefit – State Process:
 - U.S. Secretary of Education must approve state-defined process and take into account:
 - Effectiveness in enabling students without high school credentials to benefit from institutions utilizing the state process
 - The cultural diversity, economic circumstances, and educational preparation of the populations served by the institutions.
 - Ability to Benefit – Course Completion:
 - Successful completion of 6 credit hours or the equivalent.
 - Applicable toward a degree or certificate offered by the institution.
 - IBEST students pay for the first 6 hours of their career pathway program on their own (unless there is available institutional grant funding) and after that, they are fully Title IV eligible.
 - Before the student is eligible for financial aid, the institution must formally define the IBEST program as a career pathway program by fulfilling the 7 criteria.
- **Common Course Numbering Priorities – Mark Chisholm, Director-Academic Affairs & Policy**
 - CCN Process has been under way since 2018 – Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act
 - PowerPoint Presentation Overview:
 - New Code: 5.55.5 NMAC adopted on 6/12/18
 - The NMHED policy on common course numbering can be found at: https://hed.state.nm.us/resources-for-schools/public_schools/nm-course-numbering-system
 - Process:
 - ❖ In 2018 and 2019, academic discipline committees of faculty from multiple institutions were formed to standardize a set of common lower division academic courses in their discipline.
 - ❖ Each course has a four-letter prefix, four-number course number, title, description and list of student learning outcomes.
 - ❖ A course can be shared across multiple institutions or it can be unique to the offering institution.
 - NMCAC and Course Numbering Committee
 - ❖ The faculty taskforces - next meeting is on October 1.
 - ❖ In addition, an ad hoc committee of institutional registrars works with NMHED to review new courses.
 - Updates to the CCN System
 - ❖ Institutions can submit applications for additions/changes to the CCN system at: https://nmhedacademicaffairs.smapply.io/prog/nm_common_course_numbering_system/
 - Progress to Date
 - ❖ Over 9,400 institutional courses have been approved and mapped to one of over 2,474 common courses.
 - ❖ Common Course Catalog: file:///C:/Users/markc/AppData/Local/Temp/PSA_Course_Catalog_V16-1.pdf
 - ❖ Common Course Matrix: file:///C:/Users/markc/AppData/Local/Temp/PSA_Course_Matrix.2020.07.01-1.xlsx
- Next Steps

- Much work has been accomplished, but the initiative is not complete.
- Two main course subject areas still to be defined: 1) Engineering and 2) Computer Science.
- Institutions have worked very hard updating catalogs and submitting common courses.
- The CCN system success can be measured by reviewing the HED state-wide transfer report each year. We would expect to see transfers working smoothly and potentially increasing; graduation times and rates improving; and everything working seamlessly through the system.
- Part of the CCN system integration is to ensure that matriculation and transfers happen with greater ease and that challenges are addressed.
- Mark Chisholm will work on the IT infrastructure and solve fundamental IT issues.
- Goal for the new system is to create better online access on the HED website that makes it easier for someone to see what's articulated and how it all works.
- It is urgent to get the computer science and engineering programs defined. There will be a high demand for people with these skills coming out of the system.
- This is a priority for the workforce sector strategy; there are areas we can reach with both credit and noncredit programs to meet the workforce needs.
- Secretary Rodriguez shares the concerns of the two state national labs and understands the urgency of moving forward with a plan. She will develop a letter to send out.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS

- **Dual Credit:** Discuss our approach to dual credit and collaboration with PED.
- **Dual Credit Geographic Areas of Responsibility:** There have been past problems with the evolution of dual credit, a strong emphasis on quick response to the workforce, and now with distance education being more widespread than it used to be. The current rules are not clear and need to be reviewed and revised.
- **Funding Formula:** Start preliminary discussions about what we want in the funding formula. This matter will be addressed by the formally appointed cabinet secretary after the legislative session.
- **GO Bonds:** Discussions were had in the hearings and Special Session about future GO Bond funding being used to enhance broadband capabilities throughout the state. If this a reality, what does it mean for higher ed?
- **Elevating Higher Ed in the State:** Impart the importance of elevating the value of higher education to the public and legislators. Create a clear and coordinated message on the value of higher education and the number of ways institutions are working together.
- **Public Information Officer:** HED is in the process of hiring a Public Information Officer. The PIO will work with institutions on communications/marketing to draft and finesse a message, with a unified voice, on how we are working together to elevate students in response to the economic crisis and our recovery efforts.
- **CARES Act Funding:** The CARES funds were to be re-granted, but that did not happen - so what did happen?
 - Chair Rowley commented that at the June meeting, there was not a clear consensus on what was going to happen with the \$4M or if private institutions, such as Southwestern College, would be eligible for funding.
 - Member Filemry had asked former Deputy Secretary Carmen Lopez if private, post-secondary institutions would be eligible for CARES Act funding and she responded "yes".
 - There was a brief discussion between the CARES Act and GEAR UP funding.
 - The \$4M is associated with the GEAR UP, which is the Governor's discretionary fund for education.
 - The CARES Act is completely different.
 - Secretary Rodriguez will research this and connect with Member Filemry for further discussion.
- Chair Rowley thanked everyone for their participation. The next meeting will include discussions/presentations on some of the above future topics and will be held mid-December in this video conferencing format.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** *None Presented*

VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Member Arvizu motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Keith. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.*

Victor Leon

Victor Leon, Board Secretary