

**IOWA COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 21, 2014
10:00 a.m.
Iowa College Student Aid Commission
430 East Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor, Des Moines, Iowa 50309
Meeting by Phone**

Members on Phone:

Janet Adams	Fred Moore
Roger Claypool	Elizabeth Sullivan
Crystal Ford	Karolyn Wells
Jeremy Varner	Doug Shull
Michael Ash	Hannah Walsh
Cindy Winckler	Roby Smith

Members Absent:

Ron Jorgensen	Herman Quirmbach
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Staff Present:

Karen Misjak	Rachel Scott
Carolyn Small	Julie Leeper
Christina Sibouih	Kris May

Attorney General on Phone:

Chantelle Smith

Guests Present:

Dave Epley	House Democratic Caucus
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Guests on Phone:

Angela Carlson	Capri College
Matt Brown	Iowa Student Loan

Call to Order

The Iowa College Student Aid Commission met for a regularly scheduled meeting on November 24, 2014. Commission Chair Janet Adams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Misjak told Commissioners that staff submitted Iowa's application to participate in the Midwest Higher Education Compact's (MHEC) State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) initiative, but the application was rejected by a MHEC Steering Committee because of issues surrounding Iowa Code Section 714.23, which deals with required tuition refund policies, and Iowa Code Section 714.25, which deals with required disclosures to students. Both of these provisions were included in Iowa's SARA-authorizing law, Senate File (SF) 2271, as consumer protections for Iowa-resident students attending out-of-state schools' distance education programs.

Representative Winckler reminded Commissioners that the Commission was given authority under SF 2271 to enter into and administer an interstate reciprocity agreement for postsecondary distance education in Iowa. The language in SF 2271 was discussed at length with state officials and members of MHEC, and state lawmakers believed that the Code language was sufficient to ensure that Iowa could participate in SARA.

The GEAR UP 2.0 training was provided with around 100 participants in attendance. The training included information on grant requirements, College Access Readiness teams, and the Iowa Grants system.

Ms. Misjak told Commissioners that new staff members are being hired to administer the federal GEAR UP grant and the federal College Access Challenge Grant.

Consent Agenda

Chair Adams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved to approve the consent agenda as written to include: September 26, 2014 Meeting Minutes, Administration Rule Chapter 8 – All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee Report

Julie Leeper said the Legislative Committee met prior to the full Commission meeting and discussed the MHEC SARA application and the proposed administrative rule. She reminded Commissioners that the Commission budget hearing with the Governor and his staff is scheduled for December 16, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. All Commissioners are invited to attend the hearing.

Staff Reports

Kris May gave an update on FY2015 year-to-date financials.

Carolyn Small gave an update on the Postsecondary Registration. Despite the implementation of SARA, she continues to receive a steady influx of inquiries concerning first-time registration in Iowa, and a steady influx of initial registration applications from distance education program providers.

She also provided an update on the purchase of 56 of the Corinthian Colleges' institutions by ECMC. ECMC is a FFELP guarantor and loan collector that has no experience governing or managing a postsecondary educational institution. Iowa Code Chapter 261B requires an institution that operates in Iowa to be accredited by an entity recognized by the federal Department of Education. The Corinthian Colleges' accreditation will be transferred to untested ECMC at the time of the purchase. Ms. Small reminded Commissioners that they required Corinthian Colleges to cease new Iowa-resident enrollment in mid-July, 2014, at three of its degree-granting institutions. In order to open up new Iowa resident enrollment at these institutions under ECMC control, Ms. Small intends to require these institutions to apply for registration under Iowa Code Chapter 261B. Ms. Small plans to maintain oversight of the institutions under the Commission's registration authority, at minimum, until each institution earns reaffirmation of its accreditation under ECMC's governance.

Christina Sibouih gave an update on GEAR UP 1.0, providing a white paper, which included an overview of the six-year GEAR UP Grant ending June 30, 2014. See attached white paper.

Motion: Commissioner Shull moved that the Commission adjourn at 10:45 a.m.
Commissioner Ash seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



JANET ADAMS, CHAIR



CRYSTAL FORD, VICE CHAIR