Policy Modification Process

SARA Policy Cycle 2023

Moderator: Jared B. Abdirkin
Co-Chair, SARA Policy Implementation Team
Director SARA, New England Board of Higher Education
• Overview of SARA Policy Modification Process and Where We Are

• SARA Policy Portal

• Review of Regional Steering Committee (RSC) processes for reviewing and voting on proposals

• Next Steps in SARA Policy Modification Process
Overview of SARA Policy Modification Process and Where We Are
Where we are

• **63** proposals, most from the four RSCs (states), as well as institutions, consumer advocacy groups, WCET|SAN, and a Board working group

• Focus on *how* we are going to run this process and more recently on policy specific discussions

• Held first public forum, first proposal amendment & withdrawal period, and currently in public comment period

• Direct engagement has occurred or is planned between the regions along with consumer advocacy groups, institutions, and WCET|SAN on their proposals, seeking possible alignment and/or greater understanding
Process and Policy

RSC representatives, Compact and NC-SARA staff have been meeting at least 1-2 times a week since late 2022, primarily to make decisions on steps of this new process and more recently to consider proposals. Board members have been invited and attended as well.

Representative system for the regions, whereby RSC members attend, report back to their regions and seek feedback/input as needed.

- **Policy Working Group** (four regional reps and NC-SARA)
- **Policy Implementation Team**: RSC Chairs, Compact staff, NC-SARA
- **Interregional Steering Committee (I-RSC)**: RSC leaders, Compact staff
- **Policy alignment meetings**: RSC leaders and designated reps, Compact staff, other proposers (as appropriate)
- **Region only RSC meetings**
SARA Policy Portal

Yovani Pina
Director of Information Technology, NC-SARA
Updated Views of Submissions

• Iterative development cycles have enabled quick updates to the policy site
• Visitors have the ability to between different views that display all or filtered views of proposals as well as policy proposals that have been amended and public comments
• Details of the proposal, amendment and public comment are also accessible by clicking on the respective link
Capabilities in Development

- Process to support capturing decision by Regional Compacts
- Automation of document creation for proposals that advance to board review
Review of Regional Steering Committees (RSC) Processes for Reviewing and Voting on Proposals
Regional Representatives

- **Jared Abdirkin**, SARA Director, New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)
- **Jennifer Armour**, Chair, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) Regional Steering Committee
- **Tamara Baysinger**, Chair, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Regional Steering Committee
- **Terrence Scarborough**, Chair, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Regional Steering Committee
N-SARA RSC

• Note: RSC Chair resigned from his SPE role a few weeks ago, vote for new Chair will take place in June

• Starting last November our region began considering issues that were a priority for submission as proposals from our region (10 submitted)

• Meeting 1-2 times per month with all RSC and SPEs, with individual conversations and email engagement in between. Google Drive created with meeting minutes, other regional materials, notes from all policy meetings

• Majority needs to be in favor for region to approve submission or final vote; goal is to ensure there is no significant concern by any state in particular

• Watching public forums and today’s public session, review public comments at the end of the submission period
M-SARA
Policy Modification Process

Jennifer Armour
Chair, Regional Steering Committee
May 10, 2023
Regional Steering Committee

• Composition
  Appointments by member states
  At-large appointments by the MHEC president

• Meetings
Initial Processes

• Submissions
  Policy modification survey

• Public Policy Forum #1
Current Processes

• Membership Engagement

M-SARA Hub
Future Processes

• Amendments

• Alignment opportunities

• Formal review

• Voting
W-SARA
S-SARA

SARA Policy Modification Process – Proposal Assessment

Overview

Analysis Approach

Timeline

RSC Voting Process
Next Steps in SARA Policy Modification Process

Sam Loftin
Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Council
Co-Chair of the SARA Policy Implementation Team
Next Steps

- **May 17**: Public Comment period closes
- **June 7**: 2\textsuperscript{nd} Public Forum
- **June 8 – July 5**: Final Opportunity to Amend or Withdraw Proposals
- **Sept. 1**: Deadline for Regional Steering Committees to approve or not approve proposals
- **Oct. 23-25**: NC-SARA Board votes to approve or not approve proposals that were approved by all 4 RSCs
- **Dec. 31**: Revised SARA Policy Manual published on NC-SARA website
- **Jan. 2024**: New policy modification process cycle process begins

- To participate: [https://nc-sara.org/participate-sara-policy-modifications](https://nc-sara.org/participate-sara-policy-modifications)
Questions?
Break
15 Minutes

There will be silence until we return