



## **NC-SARA Board Meeting Summary Notes October 24-25, 2023 New Orleans Marriott**

### **Minutes of the May 2023 Board Meeting**

The board discussed and approved the May 2023 board meeting minutes.

### **Regional Compact President Updates**

The presidents of the four regional compacts each provided updates and announcements related to the administration of SARA in their region.

### **NC-SARA Trending Topics**

The NC-SARA president provided a brief operational update along with updates about the development of the states and territory grant program and the status of membership in NC-SARA's board committees.

### **Task Force on Consumer Protection Discussion**

The Consumer Protection Task Force chair reviewed the U.S. Department of Education rulemaking in 2022 and 2023 and NC-SARA's outreach to the Department and other partners.

### **Strategy Committee Discussion**

The Strategy Committee chair provided an overview and led discussion related to the work of the Strategy Committee since May 2023, including plans for developing the next NC-SARA strategic plan.

### **Public Session – 2023 SARA Policy Modification Process**

The board voted on six SARA policy modification proposals that were approved by all four regional compacts through their regional steering committees (RSCs). The following five proposals were approved by the board:

1. PMP-0330: Require NC-SARA to Notify Public of Institution Status
2. PMP-0331: Institutional Disclosure Requirements
3. PMP-0368: SARA Policy Manual
4. PMP-0373: Provisional Notification - Add (i) to Section 3.2
5. PMP-0383: Modification of Language: Arbitration Agreements

Following a recommendation by the Policy Committee, the board voted to deny approval of PMP-0356: SPE Removal of Provisional Status, with the suggestion that submitters reintroduce the modification as part of the 2024 cycle. The board approved the development of a working group to engage in the review of the Unified Agreement.

### **Policy Committee Discussion**

The Policy Committee chair reviewed the 2023 Policy Modification Process and RSC chairs debriefed the first cycle from a regional perspective. The draft 2024 calendar and policy modification cycle were reviewed and discussed by the board. The board also discussed possible topics for future SARA policy work.

### **Recognition Ceremony**

Peter Smith and Larry Tremblay were recognized for completing their final term and board chair Ed Ray, who has one remaining year of service on the NC-SARA board, was recognized for his service as board chair.

### **Report and Recommendations from the Executive Committee**

The board voted to elect three new board members for their first three-year term:

- Mike Goldstein, Sam Loftin, and Cathie Maeyaert.

The board voted to approve three board members for their second three-year term:

- Lanna Dueck, Angela Lee, and Carlos Morales.

The board voted to elect Rob Anderson as board chair and Eduardo Ochoa as board vice chair, each for a two-year term.

### **Regional Compact President Designations**

Stephen Pruitt, SREB President, will continue to serve on the Executive Committee and Susan Heegaard, MHEC President, will continue serving on the Finance Committee, each with terms ending after the last board meeting of 2024.

### **Department of Education: New Language Discussion**

The NC-SARA general counsel and the WICHE vice president of policy analysis and research provided an update and review of the Department of Education (ED) final language regarding certification procedures. Board discussion followed.

### **Governance and Nominations Committee Discussion**

The board discussed and voted to approve four proposed procedures:

- Proposed Procedure for Handling Non-Policy Suggestions
- Proposed Procedure for Nominating Candidates for Board Membership
- Proposed Procedure for Board Officer Nominations
- Proposed Procedure for Open Sessions of the NC-SARA Board Meetings

### **Report and Recommendations from the Finance Committee**

The board treasurer provided a report regarding the development of investment and spending policies for NC-SARA reserve funds. Board discussion followed. A presentation of the NC-SARA FY23 Financial Audit was given by Kunding, Corder, & Montoya, followed by discussion and a vote to approve the FY23 Financial Audit. The NC-SARA director of finance reviewed the statement of financial position overview with the board.

**Proposal to Increase SARA-Participating Institution Fees**

The NC-SARA treasurer presented a proposal to increase SARA-Participating Institution Fees, noting that the revenue generated from the fee increase would be utilized to implement projects and programming in alignment with SARA stakeholder recommendations. Following discussion, the board voted to bring the proposal forward to the board for action during the first board meeting of 2024. The board also discussed removing fee schedule language from the SARA Policy Manual, as fee increases are the fiduciary responsibility of the board.

**Executive Session**

The board held its executive session. There were no action items.