



National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements

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SPE Advisory Committee Notes October 28, 2024

Meeting Date: Monday, October 28, 2024, 11:00am-12:15pm MT

In attendance: Alicia Armijo, Sean Seepersad, LeAnn Detillier, Cyd Grua, Kate McCartan, Shelley Plutto, Paige Smith

Absent: Nick Marks, Charlotte Ochs

NC-SARA Staff: Emily Jacobson, Angela Lee, Marianne Boeke

Agenda:

I. **Welcome & Agenda Overview – Emily**

Emily welcomed committee members to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.

Before moving along to other agenda items, Marianne shared an update on the Fall NC-SARA Board Meeting. She provided information on several items the board discussed and voted on including new members joining the board, board members with continuing terms, the approval of ten SARA policy modification proposals and the Unified Agreement amendment process. She also shared that the board is encouraging NC-SARA staff to focus on the SARA narrative to share the value of SARA in the higher education community more consistently.

II. **2024 SPE Conference Debrief – Angela & Emily**

Angela provided an update on the 2024 SPE Conference, evaluation feedback and shared that the conference had higher attendance than SPE Conferences held in previous years. She shared some plans underway for the 2025 SPE Conference including the addition of preconference workshops, exploration of new technologies to be used for attendee engagement and having select NC-SARA Advisory Committees meet leading up to the conference. Committee members shared feedback on the 2024 SPE Conference and provided ideas for the 2025 SPE Conference such as having a new SPE welcome or orientation, having a session focused on provisional status and a workshop on SARA policy. Folks enjoyed the personal introductions at the 2024 conference and other prompts for conversation to get to know their colleagues better. They suggested finding ways to get to know each other earlier on during the 2025 SPE Conference.

Emily shared that NC-SARA is also exploring ways for more than 2 SPEs (or staff doing SPE work) to attend the SPE Conference. It's possible that funds from SARA State & Territory Grants could be used to support this short term. Several committee members shared that it would be valuable to have the option of sending more than two people from their entity.

III. SPE Survey Results – Angela & Emily

There was a high response rate on the SPE Annual Survey and we were pleased with the engagement and the interactive session during the SPE Conference. We're working on compiling feedback from these surveys to inform the work we do at NC-SARA. NC-SARA staff are still working on pulling together an executive summary of survey responses and hope to share that with committee members at the December meeting.

IV. 2025 SPE Summit Series– Angela

Angela let committee members know that we won't host a half-day SPE Summit in 2025, but instead will host three Tuesday Topics webinars. Tuesday Topics will take place monthly in January, February and March and will dive deep into specific topics. We are going to try this due to feedback we've received from SPEs wanting more time to dive deep into complex topics and to avoid Zoom fatigue. Topics covered will include the US Department of Education regulations and the potential impact on SARA, SARA policy and data, professional licensure and potentially management of catastrophic events. Committee members saw value in focusing on professional licensure, more specifically, to acknowledge how difficult this work is and thought hearing from folks at the institutional level would be valuable. Whether part of a series or a conference, it was suggested to have onboarding for new SPEs and potentially institutions on how to get started with the SARA work.

V. Resources for SARA SPEs –Emily & Angela

Emily and Angela reminded SPEs of resources available to them on the SPE Website such as the SPE Welcome Kit, the SPE Offboarding Checklist, and the SPE Essential Duties. Committee members were encouraged to revisit these documents and bring any ideas forward at future meetings about how to enhance these or share ideas on new tools that could be helpful. Committee members were updated about work NC-SARA staff have started exploring to migrate information on the SPE website to the SARA portal so there would be a one stop shop for SPEs.

VI. Committee Member Appointments– Emily

Emily provided committee members with an update on new appointments and reappointments based on membership guidelines that were recently approved. Connecting with SARA directors about the 1 year term for a SPE who is new to the SARA work to get their thoughts on how to do this most equitably among the different regions. Emily and Angela vetted an idea with the committee about adding an ad hoc role for the SPE Conference to give the SPE in the host state of the conference an opportunity to be involved with planning and SPE Advisory Committee discussions surrounding the conference each year. October 1 through Sept 30th of each year. The committee was in support of this.

Committee members serving a second 3-year term will be Kate McCartan (M-SARA), LeAnn Detillier (S-SARA) and Alicia Armijo (W-SARA). Cyd Grua (W-SARA) will serve in the 1-year ad hoc role as the SPE for the 2025 SPE Conference host state.

VII. Planning for 2025 SPE Advisory Committee Meetings – Emily

Emily let committee members know they would receive a doodle poll soon regarding scheduling 2025 SPE Advisory Committee meetings.

VIII. Next Steps & Adjourn – Emily

Emily reminded committee members of upcoming meeting dates and adjourned the meeting.

All remaining 2024 SPE Advisory Committee Meetings - all occurrences will be held 11:00am-12:15pm MT:

- Monday, December 16, 2024

Zoom meeting information for all 2024 occurrences: