



**Higher Education Department and Public Education Department
Alignment Task Force**

“Aligning New Mexico’s High School Competencies with College Placement Requirements”

Statewide Dual Credit Agreement Committee

Post-Legislative Session Meeting

CNM Workforce Training Center

5600 Eagle Rock Rd

Albuquerque, NM

Friday, February 29, 2008

Attendees

Terry Babbitt, UNM
Edward Bortot, PED
Ken Brashear, Mesalands CC
Terri Carr, Silver H S
Felicia Casados, NMSU-Grants
David Chavez, Loving Municipal Schools
Karin Coffin, Ruidoso High School
Mike Costello, NNMC
Catherine Cross Maple, PED
Anna Dyson, NMSU
Danny Earp, NM Indep Comm Coll Assoc
Walter Feldman, Middle College H S
Rita Gallegos Logan, UNM-Valencia
Tanya I. Garcia, NMHED
Kirby Gchachu, SW Indian Polytechnic Inst
Sionna Grassbaugh, CNM
Christina Griffith, Amy Biehl High School
Patricia Gonzales, UNM-Taos
Elizabeth Gutierrez, NMHED
Leah Gutierrez Wier, Albuquerque P S
David Harrell, LESC
Colynn Harrison, Lovington High School
Ron Jernigan, San Juan College

Diane Klassen, ENMU-Roswell
Marcia Knight, PED
Susan McKee, Digital Arts & Tech Academy
Bernadette Montoya, NMSU
Yash Morimoto, NMHED
Jean Morrow, Clovis CC
Renee Neely, ENMU
Christy Neill, ENMU-Ruidoso
Cedric Page, UNM-Los Alamos
Patricia Parkinson, PED
Patricia Parsons, Dexter Consolidated S D
Elizabeth Ratzlaff, NMHU
Patricia Romero, Luna CC
Jary Rupe, NMSU-Alamogordo
Brian Salter, PED
Tom Sullivan, NMCSA
Louie Torrez, Walatowa High Charter Sch
Peter van Moorsel, LESC
Roberta Vigil, UNM-Taos
Carey Walker, WNMU
John Walker, NMSU-Doña Ana
Michael Zimmerman, NMSU

Meeting Notes

Co-Chairs of the HED/PED Alignment Task Force, Elizabeth R. Gutierrez and Catherine Cross Maple, welcomed the 46 participants who attended the Dual Credit Committee meeting on Friday, February 29, 2008 at the CNM Workforce Center. Attendees represented school districts, charter schools, colleges, universities, PED, HED and LESC.

Legislative Update

Tanya I. Garcia reviewed SB31: *Expand Schools in Dual Credit Program* (Senator Cynthia Nava) and implications for dual credit implementation, including the addition of summer courses as eligible for dual credit. Students at state-supported schools are now eligible to participate in dual credit as per SB31.

Tanya also presented an update on P20 bills enacted during the 2008 legislative session. Among these bills is SB460: *College and Workplace Readiness Assessments* (Senator Nava), which modifies the High School Redesign legislation signed into law in 2007. Tanya prepared a comparison of how the High School Redesign bills relates to the Public School Code for distribution.

Appeals Process

Patricia Parkinson, PED, conducted a review of references to an appeal process in the agreement. The group concurred that parent and student appeals would remain at the local school district for resolution. The appeal workgroup will develop local and state appeal processes for recommendation to HED, PED, districts and colleges/universities.

Timetable for amending dual credit rules; Review of reserved items

Issues that were “reserved” in the revised rules prepared in 2007 and those that were not addressed were reviewed for future action.

Dual Credit Council

The six-member Dual Credit Council was appointed by the PED and HED Cabinet Secretaries. Comprised of six members, three are from PED and three are from HED. Questions were asked about the composition and omission of school district and higher education administrators. The intent is to form a council of executive branch staff to review agreements, hear appeals and make recommendations to the Secretaries. Because appellants and applicants will be school districts, colleges and universities, they are not part of the Council.

Student Eligibility – interpretation of half time enrollment in high school

The group debated the eligibility interpretation of half-time enrollment in high school. One basic parameter that needs to be clearly understood and consistently applied is the requirement that students be enrolled for “half-time or more of the minimum course requirements approved by PED” in order to participate in dual credit programs. David Harrell expressed an interpretation that this is a prerequisite, and not a co-requisite, with dual credit courses. PED will be asked to confirm this interpretation. How will this effect programs such as the UNM-Gallup Middle College High School—which only offers High School courses for dual credit—if the dual credit courses don’t contribute to the half-time load?

Reserved Items:

Three issues were reserved in the 2007 revision of dual credit rules: Definitions, formula funding, and core course ratio.

Definitions – A small workgroup will review and define outstanding definitions in rule and consider additional definitions that should be reflected in rule. Tanya Garcia will send out call for workgroup volunteers.

Formula funding – Committee members received the New Mexico Higher Education Department *Procedure for Tuition Revenue Credit* prepared by Tino Pestalozzi, NMHED Director of Institutional Finance. Secretary Dasenbrock approved the formula calculations on February 29, 2008. The procedure covers the calculation of I&G tuition revenue credit and the waiver for dual credit enrollment, thereby enabling postsecondary institutions to waive tuition for dual credit courses. A discussion of fees focused on the need to clearly define fees because of the wide range in the level of fees among institutions. Terry Babbitt, UNM VP of Enrollment, urged the group to be as specific as possible because of the complexity of fee structures and the increasing fees. David Harrell, LESC analyst, informed the group that the definition of “general fee” was added to statute in 2006. Leah Gutierrez Wier, APS, reminded the group that there is a court ruling from a case in Hobbs that “free and appropriate” public education means “free” in New Mexico. A workgroup is needed to address fees in preparation for the hearing.

Core course ratio – Tom Sullivan, NM Coalition of School Administrators, reminded the group of the meeting of Secretaries Garcia and Dasenbrock in September 2007 where the issues of the core curriculum and the credit ratios were discussed. The decision to convert elective credits at a

ratio of 3:1 (postsecondary to secondary) is reflected in the agreement and applies to courses not comparable to those offered at secondary schools. The core curriculum remains open for discussion and resolution at the next hearing, tentatively planned for May 2008. Committee members agreed to adopt the language in rule for comparable elective courses to core courses, where districts and postsecondary representatives jointly propose to the Dual Credit Council the core course ratio. The group may need to define the high school core curriculum for the purposes of dual credit.

Items not addressed:

Three issues were not addressed in the 2007 rule revision: Notification of scheduling conflicts between district and colleges, dual credit grades on high school transcripts, and non-dual credit students in high school dual credit courses.

Notification of scheduling conflicts – Especially important for high school testing dates, spring and holiday breaks. Committee members agreed to incorporate the language pertaining to this issue into rule.

Dual credit grades on high school transcripts – How do we educate students about the implications of taking a college course and the policies about dropping courses? Outreach to students and parents and training of high school staff are essential. High schools will not be able to remove grades or courses from a transcript. Committee members agreed to incorporate the language pertaining to this issue into rule.

Liz Gutierrez, NMHED, summarized the discussions and observed that school districts, colleges and universities are in a dual credit transition period. Many of these issues will be more clearly defined as dual credit practice evolves to meet the needs of students in each district. During the transition period, we need to be mindful of effective practices and “lessons learned” to include in rules and other policy processes. Practice will inform policy. We will continue to observe practices that should remain locally-determined and those that require more state policy direction.

Non-dual credit students in high school dual credit courses – The original practice that was generally agreed upon was that dual credit courses are college courses that provide a college experience. It was assumed that non-dual credit students would not be in dual credit classrooms taking the course for high school credit only. However, several campuses (Luna, UNM-Taos, Northern, and UNM-Valencia) stated that their dual credit programs would not remain viable with this restriction. A discussion of viability of existing dual credit programs vs. credibility of dual credit programs revealed more variation in practice. This issue is addressed in the agreement and not in rule. The group agreed that it should not be addressed in rule, and should be removed from the agreement for further study.

Next steps:

1. Workgroups will be formed and may meet via videoconferencing; NMHED will send out email Wednesday, March 12 of workgroup members
2. Reserved and unaddressed items assigned to workgroups:
 - Appeals
 - Definitions
 - General fees
3. HED will prepare rules discussed and proceed with a hearing tentatively scheduled for May 15
4. Next statewide dual credit meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 21