

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.L

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: International Student Coordinator Meeting

Campus representatives that serve as International Student Coordinators at the various institutions met in Pierre on May 4, 2015, to discuss a number of common agenda items. Two in particular warrant further discussion by AAC representatives. First, a year ago, the coordinators gathered to discuss [Study South Dakota](#), a 503(c)3, to promote international exchange of postsecondary students which currently exists in some form in the majority of states around the country. This program is dictated by the state department and must include all other postsecondary institutions in the state. After their initial meeting on the concept, the paperwork to be incorporated as a nonprofit was vetted with legal counsel, but was never filed. As the group moved forward, they lost momentum when deciding how institutions should pay membership fees (i.e. determined by numbers of international students or size of school, etc.). As the group discussed next steps, the coordinators were asked to consider whether having the Board of Regents serve as the coordinating entity would fulfill the requirements by the State Department. Currently, the BOR engages in similar service for both the Select Dakota initiative which provides common college preparation materials on behalf of all public institutions in the state, and in its capacity as the coordinating entity for SARA. The group was encouraged to evaluate the Select Dakota website and the new [SARA policy](#) as a potential model, and if the option were viable the group would not need to pursue 503(c)3 status.

Second, the coordinators raised questions about current credit by examination procedures that would allow acceptance of Language testing through [Language Testing International](#) (LTI) and [General Certificate of Education Advanced Level](#) (GCE A Level) examinations to be included. Currently, USD is authorized to administer the LTI and credit for GCE A Level examinations are reviewed individually by the various campuses. The coordinator group is seeking authority to pursue the creation of a course equivalency matrix similar to what the system has for CLEP, AP, DANTEs, and IB credit.

AAC representatives should be prepared to discuss issues/concerns with moving forward as a system on these two areas to assist international student coordinators at their institution.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion and Recommendation.