

Docket Item:

Update on former Joint Boards Articulation Commission (JBAC).

Summary:

Report to SSIC on the status of JBAC, now known as Joint Transfer and Articulation Committee (JTAC).

Docket Material:

The Committee will hear a report on the most recent quarterly meeting of JTAC (formerly JBAC). At its most recent convening, the group known as JBAC reviewed its history and current status under the emergent higher education state framework. The former authorizing body for the Joint Boards Articulation Commission-- the Joint Boards--no longer exists, so the time had come for a review of the group's charge and relationship to the state. At the May 4, 2015 meeting held at Portland Community College Rock Creek, the group (chaired by Kendra Cawley) came to consensus on several points:

- The new name and acronym should reflect the group's historic charge – Joint Transfer and Articulation Committee
- The group is not a subcommittee of the HECC, but rather an advisory group that works with the SSIC through HECC agency staff. This reporting arrangement allows JTAC to be responsive and focused on solutions unencumbered by the public meeting law requirements of a formal HECC subcommittee.
- The group can and should maintain its focus on transfer, articulation and system alignment for student success and completion
- Remaining unresolved issues of membership, charge, rotation, can be taken up by a subgroup of JTAC to make recommendations to the Committee. This group, consisting of incoming chair Stephen Scheck (WOU), Karen Sprague (UO), Lisa Reynolds (CCWD), and Sean Pollack (HECC staff) will meet in July to formulate recommendations.

Attached to this docket item is a report on JBAC's History & Charter authored by Salam Noor, Director of Academic Planning and Policy for HECC. This document served as the primary basis for the discussions that formalized the planned changes in the group's name and reporting relationship.

Staff Recommendation:

Informational; no action required by the Committee.



JOINT BOARDS ARTICULATION COMMISSION HISTORY & CHARTER

NEW STATE GOVERNANCE AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

BACKGROUND

The Joint Boards Articulation Commission (JBAC) was formed in 1992 by the Joint Boards of Education (the State Board of Education and the Board of Higher Education) to address issues related to student transfer and articulation. Membership has shifted over the years with primary appointments being made by the Chancellor of the University System, the Commissioner of Community Colleges and Oregon Department of Education and the Executive Director of the Oregon Independent College Association (now known as “The Alliance”) and most recently the Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Annual Reports in the fall were historically made to the Joint Boards of Education on the activities of JBAC. Over the past two decades JBAC has assisted in the development of the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer Degree (AAOT), the Associate of Science/Oregon Transfer Degree (ASOT) and the Oregon Transfer Module (OTM). JBAC has also played an important role in various other activities including the recent work related to the creation of an alternative math pathway.

RECENT LANDSCAPE

With the recent formation of the HECC and the dissolution of the Oregon University System, the oversight of higher education in Oregon has changed. The Joint Boards of Education has ceased to exist and oversight of both the public universities and the community colleges has shifted to the HECC. The HECC recognizes and values the role JBAC has played in facilitating and ensuring system alignment and articulation in our state. Furthermore, the HECC appreciates the inclusive and organic process by which JBAC has approached its work and the focus on key issues that support students and their success. The HECC also recognizes the importance of a group of content area experts who are knowledgeable in the areas of transfer and articulation to assist HECC in increasing student success and reaching the goal of 40/40/20.

THE FUTURE

Under the new and emerging higher education governance structure in our state, the HECC has organized its work using two subcommittees, the Student Success and Institutional Collaboration (SSIC) and the Funding & Achievement Subcommittees. These Committees report directly to the full Commission and meet on a frequent basis to assist the Commission in prioritizing and completing its work. The topic of transfer and articulation falls under the purview of the SSIC. Recognizing that being nimble and quick to respond to important questions and issues has been an important factor in the success of JBAC, it is

recommended that the membership and functionality of JBAC be shifted to a workgroup model under the SSIC. This model allows for JBAC to operate much as it has in recent months without the requirement of public meeting notice and without the restrictions that quorums bring regarding electronic or telephone communications. The name of the “Joint Boards Articulation Commission” will need to be revised to underline this new relationship with the HECC, but should include an emphasis on “articulation and transfer.” The relationship will be between JBAC – proposed name “Statewide Alignment and Articulation Advisory Workgroup” – and HECC leadership and staff. This will allow us to operate more conveniently and as nimble as described above and not have to adhere to a formalized open meeting rules and regulations. As a workgroup, we will be able to partner on issues that arise from the SSIC or the full commission, as well as issues that surface from the participants and their respective institutions. This flexible model will allow the Workgroup to maintain the autonomy and institutional character it has enjoyed, while still be directly engaged in the HECC’s work.

MEMBERSHIP, MEETING FREQUENCY, AND STAFFING

Currently JBAC is comprised of members from community colleges and universities representing instruction, student services, registrars, enrollment services, and private not-for-profit institutions. The group is co-staffed by HECC, the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). This membership representation has proven effective in the past and the HECC suggests that a “co-chair” approach between the universities and community colleges be taken and that representation from high schools be added to the group. The University Interinstitutional Faculty Senate has also requested to join the Workgroup.

Currently, JBAC meets quarterly, frequently alternating between in-person and conference call formats. The frequency and format of the meetings appears to be effective and should be continued as the group moves forward.

Staffing of JBAC has been accomplished using a “team approach.” Historically this was done to ensure engagement and coordination between ODE, CCWD and the Oregon University System. With the formation of the HECC and the upcoming merger with CCWD, this staffing approach may no longer be necessary. Staff whose work may be of interest to the JBAC should be in attendance, however, as a resource for conversations as identified by the meeting agenda.

The meeting agendas should be set by the co-chairs with support of the identified HECC staff person(s). Agendas should be set in tandem with an identified work plan that correlates and supports the work of the SSIC and HECC, and the Workgroup. In addition, the agenda should allow for topics to be brought forth to the Workgroup based upon member requests which may be the result of institutional concerns or inquiries.

Staffing of the Workgroup may include assistance with scheduling meetings and coordination of agendas and corresponding meeting materials. In addition, staff should be prepared to take notes which capture key discussion points and recommended actions. HECC staff will serve as the conduit to the SSIC in assuring that topics move both to and from the SSIC to the Workgroup as appropriate and that the corresponding work plans are aligned.