Major Deliverables Released

In preparation for its bi-annual membership meeting and Workgroup Summit, PESC is ramping up for the release of several major deliverables to the education community.

- **Policies and Procedures Manual for the Standards Forum for Education** – This manual, currently under a review and comment period by the PESC membership, will be released to the education community in its final form in December 2004. The manual identifies how to submit a candidate for review as a potential standard, how standards are approved, and how maintenance and version control of standards will be handled.

- **XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community** – Developed and maintained by FSA, the Registry and Repository will store all enterprise-wide data definitions of core components and PESC approved standards. Administered by PESC for the community, access to the Registry and Repository, which will be free and available to the general public, will be made available in October 2004.

- **Web Services Educational Primer** – PESC’s workgroup has studied web services and has provided baseline definitions, identified key points, and illustrated current examples of web services prototypes and architecture. The primer will be issued in October 2004 in electronic format only.

PESC Launches

**Five New Committees and Workgroups**

PESC is pleased to announce the launch of five new committees and workgroups all of which fall under the jurisdiction of its Standards Forum for Education: Change Control Board, Technical Advisory Board, Submission Advisory Board, Secondary to Postsecondary Transcript Workgroup, and Data Transport Workgroup.

**Change Control Board** – Led by Randy Mertens of Nelnet, this committee will serve as a standing committee that authorizes both
new candidates as standards and changes to existing ones through PESC’s standards approval and maintenance process.

**Technical Advisory Board** – Led by Steve Margenau of Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation, this committee will serve as a standing committee that advises all committees and workgroups on technical and architectural issues, recommends solutions, and provides research and results on strategic technical topics and best practices.

**Submission Advisory Board** – Administered by the PESC office at this time, this committee will serve as a standing committee that receives candidates for standardization from the community, advocates internally for those candidates, and guides those candidates through the process.

**Secondary to Postsecondary (S2P) Transcript Workgroup** – Led by Bruce Marton of the University of Texas at Austin, this workgroup’s goal is to develop an XML transcript standard that can be exchanged between secondary and postsecondary institutions.

**Data Transport Workgroup** – Led by Kim Shiflette of USA Funds and originally formed under NCHELP’s Electronic Standards Committee, this workgroup is migrating to PESC to ensure participation across all sectors of higher education. This workgroup’s goal is to develop data transport standard(s) for the exchange of data between and among institutions, service providers, and all other suppliers within the higher education community.

Participation on the Change Control, Technical Advisory, and Submission Advisory Boards is designated by the Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education. Participation on the S2P Transcript and Data Transport Workgroups is open to the full PESC Membership. Working sessions, discussions, and workshops to formally kick-off the S2P Transcript and Data Transport Workgroups are being held at PESC’s Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit. These workgroups join already established and functioning workgroups within PESC:

**Request and Response of the XML Postsecondary Transcript Workgroup** – Led by Mark Jones of the National Student Clearinghouse, this workgroup’s goal is to develop standards for the request and response of the already-approved XML Postsecondary Transcript.

**Online Loan Counseling Workgroup** – Led by Cathy Mueller of Mapping Your Future, this workgroup’s goal is to develop a standard for the exchange of loan counseling data.

A complete overview and report on these new committees and workgroups will be provided at PESC’s Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit being held this October 5-6, 2004 at the Marriott in Newport Beach CA.
State of e-Authentication in Higher Education

Held last month in Washington DC, PESC’s Assembly on the State of e-Authentication in Higher Education brought together government, industry, and higher education experts from across the country to provide up to date information on authentication activities and examples of authentication initiatives to an audience of 140+ registrants.

Provided free of charge to the education community, the Assembly was made possible through the partnership of PESC and the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) and the sponsorship of Sungard SCT.

The entire Assembly was recorded (audio and video) and with a high quality recording, PESC and Sungard SCT are now making DVDs available to the education community as well. We are once again pleased to be able to offer these DVDs to the education community free of charge. Providing the Assembly on DVD ensures that executives and decision makers are able to access, learn, and educate themselves at their own convenience and on their own time.

DVDs will first be available from Sungard SCT at the upcoming Educause Conference (booth 508) being held October 19 – 22, 2004 in Denver CO. For more information on DVDs and for ordering a copy, please visit www.unifieddigitalcampus.com.

PESC Joins Oracle’s New Higher Education Advisory Board

Oracle Corporation recently formed a Higher Education Industry Executive Customer Advisory Board to:

- Establish open lines of communication between strategic customers, industry leaders, visionaries, and Oracle
- Focus attention on higher education long-term business drivers (5-10 years out) and the way Oracle products and services will map to these issues
- Give Advisory Board members the opportunity to share their industry perspectives, share their vision for the future of Higher Education, and guide Oracle on the needs of Higher Education from technology and technology vendors
- Support Oracle’s focus on the Education and Research industry spearheads.

The Board will meet with Oracle twice per year. Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director, will serve as the PESC representative.

For more information on Oracle, please visit www.Oracle.com.

On September 15, 2004 technological requirements were issued in the Federal Register for institutions participating in the Federal student aid programs. The announcement is attached to this edition of The Standard.
Howard Gilbert on software ... and standards

BY JIM FARMER

“You can spend your life searching for a Grail, but I just bought a very nice set of cups at Pottery Barn.” Howard Gilbert’s opening remark at PESC’s State of eAuthentication meeting resonated with the raw frustration and under-appreciated successes of the audience.

Gilbert said colleges and universities were at “Ground Zero in the Authentication Train Wreck.” By seeking a perfect authentication system, users were left with a password like “doom3” written on Post-It notes stuck to the side of the keyboard.

Gilbert argues that we can do better, and should not seek the “perfect” solution. Yale University has done better with their Central Authentication System (CAS). Designed to solve Yale’s problem, he could have said that CAS is now implemented in more than 200 colleges and universities. Apparently they have a similar problem and Yale’s CAS is better than what they were doing. “There is no good single answer,” said Gilbert.

“There are other Web sign-on systems and they all operate in the same space. CAS is simple, open, and deployed, but follows no particular standard. Other places will make other choices,” said Gilbert.

Now Yale is turning to implementing Shibboleth to extend the single signon functionality now available from CAS.

Yale University is an active participant in the uPortal Project. Several times Gilbert reminded the developers “I am paid by Yale to solve Yale problems. I am not paid to move the technology forward. If it happens, that’s good, but that is not why Yale is participating.”

Gilbert summarized his views “Perfection is the enemy of better.”

Perhaps Gilbert’s guidance for standards organizations such as PESC is to focus on “doing better” now rather than attempting to produce the “perfect specification” in some distant future. Earlier implementation will lead to improvements along the way. Implementation will let colleges and universities “do better” now, which is a very important goal.

Howard Gilbert is a Senior Research Programmer, Technology and Planning, at Yale University.

A DVD of Howard Gilbert’s presentation can be obtained from SunGard SCT.
Microsoft Acknowledges Possible Impact of Open Source Software

BY JIM FARMER

Microsoft Corporation’s September 1, 2004 change to its 10-K report to the Security and Exchange Commission acknowledged the possible impact of open source software on its revenue business model. “Our direct competitors include firms adopting alternative business models to the commercial software model. Firms adopting the non-commercial software model typically provide customers with open source software at nominal cost and earn revenue on complementary services and products, without having to bear the full costs of research and development for the open source software.” And, they should have said, the cost of marketing.

Microsoft’s comments targeted the Linux operating system “… nearly all computer manufacturers offer server hardware for the Linux operating system. IBM’s endorsement of Linux has accelerated its acceptance as an alternative to both traditional Unix and Windows server operating systems. Linux’s competitive position has also benefited from the large number of compatible applications now produced by many leading commercial software developers as well as non-commercial software developers. A number of companies supply versions of Linux, including Novell and Red Hat.” Commenting about enterprise computing, Microsoft wrote: “There are also a number of non-commercial software server applications available.” “Non-commercial” is Microsoft’s euphemism for open source software.

Microsoft observed: “We continue to watch the evolution of open source software development and distribution, and continue to differentiate our products from competitive products including those based on open source software. We believe that Microsoft’s share of server units grew modestly in fiscal 2004, while Linux distributions rose slightly faster on an absolute basis. The increase in Linux distributions reflects some significant public announcements of support and adoption of open source software in both the server and desktop markets in the last year. To the extent open source software products gain increasing market acceptance, sales of our products may decline, which could result in a reduction in our revenue and operating margins.”

Microsoft defended its business model: “We believe the commercial software model has had substantial benefits for users of software, allowing them to rely on our expertise and the expertise of other software developers that have powerful incentives to develop innovative software that is useful, reliable, and compatible with other software and hardware.” But concluded open source software may cause price reductions saying “In recent years, there has been a growing challenge to the commercial software model. … To the extent open source software gains increasing market acceptance, sales of our products may decline, we may have to reduce the prices we charge for our products, and revenue and operating margins may consequently decline.”

By law and practice, Microsoft is required to document possibilities that could reduce the value of the Microsoft stock in their SEC filings. Similar to Blackboard’s Initial Public Offering, Microsoft documents possibilities. Corporate executives may continue to believe that open source will not significantly impact their business. Financial analysts agree: Microsoft’s stock gained $.23 per share to close at $27.62 per share on September 2nd. Following Microsoft’s filing, Blackboard Inc. stock gained $.10 to close at $20.06 on September 2nd. Blackboard went public on June 18th at $15.80 per share closing at $20.01.

Neither Microsoft or Blackboard are threatened by current use of open source software by colleges or universities. For higher education Microsoft’s analysis suggests open source may produce cost savings for everyone, including those using commercial software sometime in the future. But corporate executives will have to believe the threat from open source software before there will be lower software prices. That may take some more time.
The U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) Central Processing System (CPS) has made the 2005-2006 Software Developers Specifications package available on ED’s Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site located at http://ifap.ed.gov, under Application Processing Materials, 2005-2006 Award Year. The specifications are also posted to the Department’s Federal Student Aid Download Web site, located at http://fsadownload.ed.gov, under References and Documentation, CPS Test System 2005-2006. ED indicates that are “several significant changes to the specifications.” In addition, CPS advises that it will not complete testing of these specifications until January 1, 2005, therefore software developers should be prepared to receive updates to the specifications until that time.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently announced that it will give the FBI access to databases for tracking foreign visitors, including students, according to a Chronicle of Higher Education Article. The FBI no longer needs to get information from SEVIS through the department. To help address privacy concerns of foreign students and scholars, those who feel their personal information is being misused could write to the department’s security officer. The article is available at http://chronicle.com/daily/2004/09/2004091501n.htm.

Web service deployment has spread worldwide, according to Radicati Group, a market research firm. The firm found that 52 percent of web service deployment has occurred in the United States, 39 percent in Europe, 6 percent by Asia Pacific and the remaining 3 percent spread out across the world.

As IT developers worldwide try to tackle making a combination of single sign-on, identity mapping
and account linking, directory services, authorization and management work across multiple environments, more and more are finding SAML is the most successful building block to date, according to a recent InfoWorld article. To explore the use of SAML in this environment visit www.infoworld.com/article/04/09/03/36FEidentityfed_1.html.

- The OASIS Universal Business Language (UBL) TC has approved UBL NDR v1.0 as a Committee Draft and is submitting it for public review. UBL NDR creates the rules and guidelines for normative-form schema design, instance design, and markup naming to be used for business transactions. The public review will end 17 Oct. The draft is available for download, and comments are being solicited from all interested parties. http://lists.oasisopen.org/archives/members/200409/msg00005.html

- A recent Microsoft White Paper describes the design principles underlying the architecture and foundational technologies for Web services. The paper may be accessed at http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/enus/dnwebsrv/html/introwsa.asp

- As web services mature into complex business process management, the need for standards to address the integration of these processes is increasing. In an article titled, Beyond the Basics: Emerging Web Services Standards for Business Process Management, Oracle Magazine acknowledges the building block standards and explores emerging standards. To read the article visit www.oracle.com/technology/oramag/oracle/04jul/o4web_feature_basics.html

- After more than a year of behind the scenes preparation, Sun Microsystems and Microsoft will deliver their first jointly developed system. The companies will provide single sign on capability for Microsoft’s Active Directory and the Java Enterprise LDAP Directory next month. For more information visit www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=47208546

- BEA, IBM, Microsoft, SAP, and Sun together submitted WS-Addressing to the W3C in accordance with the W3C’s strict intellectual property (IP) policy, turning over all copyrights to the W3C and explicitly waiving potential patent royalties and licensing fees. For more information visit http://xml.coverpages.org/NewcomerWSAddressing.html

- At a recent Common Solutions Group meeting at Harvard University, Mitch Kapor of the Open Source Applications Foundation announced the Chandler Westwood Personal Information Manager software would be delayed until mid to late 2006. Westwood was scheduled to be released September 15, 2005.
Angela C. Arrington
Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Type of Review: Extension.
Title: Streamlined Process for Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) Approved Grant Applications.
Frequency: Annually.
Affected Public: State, local, or tribal gov’t, SEAs or LEAs; Businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions.


Abstract: In April 1997, EDGAR’s menu of selection criteria became effective. For each competition, the Secretary would select one or more criteria that best enable the Department to identify the highest quality applications consistent with the program purpose, statutory requirements, and any priorities established. This allows the Secretary the flexibility to weigh the criteria according to the needs of each individual program. This menu of selection criteria will provide the Department the flexibility to choose a set of criteria tailored to a given competition and obviate the need to create specific selection criteria through individual program regulations. ED is requesting a streamlined clearance process for programs of approved applications that choose to change: (1) Criteria from the same EDGAR menu or (2) program criteria to EDGAR criteria.

Requests for copies of the submission for OMB review; comment request may be accessed from http://edicsweb.ed.gov, by selecting the “Browse Pending Collections” link and by clicking on link number 2580. When you access the information collection, click on “Download Attachments” to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202–4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCR_RIMC@ed.gov or faxed to 202–245–6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at her e-mail address Sheila.Carey@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339.

[FR Doc. E4–2179 Filed 9–13–04; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4000–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION


AGENCY: Department of Education.
ACTION: Notice of required electronic processes and related system requirements.

SUMMARY: We give notice that, beginning with the 2005–2006 award year, institutions participating in the Federal student aid programs must ensure they participate in the designated electronic processes included in this notice and satisfy the hardware and software specifications described in this notice. The Federal student aid programs are authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (Title IV, HEA Programs).

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: The Student Assistance General Provisions regulations in 34 CFR 668.16(o) provide, in part, that to be administratively capable an institution must participate in electronic processes designated by the Secretary. These processes were first identified in a notice published in the Federal Register on September 19, 1997 (62 FR 49414). In that notice, we also provided information regarding the hardware and software requirements needed for an institution to participate in the designated electronic processes. Because of advances in technology, we updated those hardware and software requirements in a Federal Register notice published on December 22, 2000 (65 FR 80841).

In this notice, we update both the designated electronic processes that an institution must participate in and the software and hardware requirements (presented as a minimum system configuration and an optimal system configuration) that an institution must have to participate in these processes. Most of the electronic processes included in this notice are the same processes that were included in the previous Federal Register notices; although the specific technology and/or names of those processes may have changed (for example, the Student Aid Information Gateway (SAIG) has replaced the Title IV Wide Area Network (TIV WAN)).

A new process included in this notice is that all institutions must send and receive origination and disbursement data for the Federal Pell Grant Program and the Federal Direct Loan Program to our Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) system using the Extensible Markup Language (XML) “Common Record: COD.” Beginning with the 2005–2006 award year, this requirement will apply to all institutions, including COD phase-in participants that currently submit and receive information using flat-file record formats. Additional information on this requirement is provided in item 11 under Designated Electronic Processes below.

Designated Electronic Processes

To be in compliance with 34 CFR 668.16(o), an institution must:
1. Participate in the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG);
2. Use our electronic process whenever it is required to submit or update its Application for Approval to Participate in the Federal Student Aid Programs (for example, when the institution initially applies to participate, when it is recertified, or when it reports required changes, or seeks to be reinstated);
3. Use our electronic processes to submit its Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) and other required reports or requests for the campus-based programs (Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work-Study, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant);
4. Electronically receive Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) from our Central Processing System (CPS) using the Student Aid Information Gateway (SAIG);
5. Use the Student Aid Information Gateway (SAIG) and approved electronic processes when submitting a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on behalf of an applicant for Federal student aid to our Central Processing System (CPS) or when submitting corrections or updates to FAFSA data to CPS for an applicant;
6. If not already listed, add itself to the Central Processing System (CPS) record for a student it wishes to consider for Title IV assistance;
7. Have on-line Internet access to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and submit to NSLDS its Federal Perkins Loan data, its student enrollment records, its Federal Pell Grant overpayments, and its NSLDS Transfer Monitoring records using either the
offered Student Loan Information Gateway (SAIG) services or the Internet, as appropriate;

8. Access the “Information for Financial Aid Professionals” (IFAP) Web site;

9. Electronically submit its annual compliance and financial statement audits, and any other required audits;

10. Receive its draft and official cohort default rate data electronically; and

11. Beginning with the 2005–2006 award year, send and receive origination and disbursement data for the Federal Pell Grant Program and the Federal Direct Loan Program to the COD system using the Student Aid Information Gateway (SAIG) and the Extensible Markup Language (XML) “Common Record: COD” that complies with the published schema for each award year.

Technical Specifications

For an institution to effectively and efficiently participate in the designated electronic processes listed above, it must obtain appropriate software and hardware. With the institutions currently participate in these electronic processes, at least partially, using mainframe technology, many other institutions, and to some extent many of the mainframe schools, use a desktop computing environment for all or part of their Title IV student aid processing. Specifically, many institutions use our EDCONNECT process for receiving and sending data over the SAIG. Also, many institutions use one or more of the processes included in our EDExpress suite of products. Accordingly, we are providing the following minimum and optimal hardware and software configurations as part of this electronic processes notice.

Although all of the required electronic processes included in this notice can be performed using the minimum configuration, we strongly recommend the optimal configuration, particularly in cases where an institution sends or receives 4,000 or more records in an XML document (batch). This is because the new XML file formats used by EDExpress and COD (and in the future by CPS) are larger and require greater storage and computing power. For the same reason, while we include “high speed Internet connection” only in the Optimal Configuration, we encourage institutions to consider moving away from a “dial-up” connection if they intend on submitting or receiving large amounts of data. This will significantly reduce transmission time and will increase the probability of an uninterrupted transmission session.

### System Configurations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum configuration</th>
<th>Optimal configuration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2 GHz Processor</td>
<td>2.8 GHz/333 MHz Processor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>512 MB RAM</td>
<td>1 GB RAM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 GB Hard Drive</td>
<td>80 GB Hard Drive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48x CD-ROM Drive (CD-RW recommended)</td>
<td>48x CD-ROM Drive (CD-RW recommended).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows compatible keyboard and mouse</td>
<td>Windows compatible keyboard and mouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capable of Super Video Graphics Adapter (SVGA) resolution (800 x 600) or higher.</td>
<td>Capable of Super Video Graphics Adapter (SVGA) resolution (800 x 600) or higher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 Kbps Modem (meets or is upgradable to V.90 standard)</td>
<td>High speed Internet connection (i.e., DSL).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windows 2000 or Windows XP Professional</td>
<td>Laser printer capable of printing on standard paper (8.5” x 11”).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recommended (FSA will support Windows 98/98SE/ME only until June 30, 2006).</td>
<td>Windows 2000 or Windows XP Professional recommended (FSA will support Windows 98/98SE/ME only until June 30, 2006).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating System

Minimum configuration: IBM or Fully IBM-compatible PC

Optimal configuration: IBM or Fully IBM-compatible PC

Monitor and Video Card

Minimum configuration: 128 MB RAM

Optimal configuration: 512 MB RAM

Internet Connection

Minimum configuration: 56 Kbps Modem (meets or is upgradable to V.90 standard)

Optimal configuration: High speed Internet connection (i.e., DSL)

Printer

Minimum configuration: Laser printer capable of printing on standard paper (8.5” x 11”)

Optimal configuration: Laser printer capable of printing on standard paper (8.5” x 11”).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions relating to these requirements, contact John Kolotos, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., (UCP room 113F1), Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 377-4027, FAX: (202) 275-4552, or by e-mail: john.kolotos@ed.gov.

For questions related to the Student Aid Information Gateway (SAIG) and to the Central Processing System (CPS), contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 1–800–330–5947.

For questions related to the Application To Participate, the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, and the electronic submission of audits, contact the Customer Service Call Center for Schools at 1–800–433–7327.

For questions related to the campus-based programs, contact the Campus-Based Call Center at 1–877–801–7168.

For questions related to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), contact NSLDS Customer Service at 1–800–999–8219.

For questions related to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) system, contact the COD School Relations Center at 1–800–848–0978 for the Federal Direct Loan Program or 1–800–474–7268 (1–800–4PGRANT) for the Federal Pell Grant Program.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, or computer diskette) on request to John Kolotos using the contact information listed above.

Electronic Access to This Document

You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the Federal Register, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister.

To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free, at 1–888–293–6498; or in the Washington, DC area at (202) 512–1530.


(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance numbers: 84.007 Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) Program; 84.032 Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Programs; 84.033 Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program; 84.038 Federal...
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance; Meeting

AGENCY: Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Education.

ACTION: Notice of upcoming teleconference meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming teleconference meeting of the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance. Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (i.e., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, and/or materials in alternative format) should notify Ms. Hope M. Gray at (202) 219-2099 or via e-mail at hope.gray@ed.gov no later than 2 p.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2004. We will attempt to meet requests after this date but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities. This notice also describes the functions of the Committee. Notice of this meeting is required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public.

DATE AND TIME: Monday, September 27, 2004, beginning at 1 p.m. and ending at approximately 3 p.m.

ADDRESSES: 80 F Street, NW., Suite 412, Washington, DC 20001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Brian K. Fitzgerald, Staff Director, Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, 80 F Street, NW., Suite 413, Washington, DC 20202–7582; (202) 219–2099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance is established under Section 491 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended by Public Law 100–50 (20 U.S.C. 1098). The Advisory Committee serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to the Congress and the Secretary of Education on student financial aid policy. Since its inception, the congressional mandate requires the Advisory Committee to conduct objective, nonpartisan, and independent analyses on important aspects of the student assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. In addition, Congress expanded the Advisory Committee’s agenda in the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 in several important areas: Access, Title IV modernization, distance education, and early information and needs assessment. Specifically, the Advisory Committee is to review, monitor and evaluate the Department of Education’s progress in these areas and report recommended improvements to Congress and the Secretary.

The FY2004 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2673), which was signed into law on January 23, 2004, directs the Advisory Committee to examine the federal financial aid formula and application forms in order to simplify and streamline the programs to make the system easier, more responsive, and fairer for students and families. The Advisory Committee is well suited to conduct this study, drawing upon the expertise of its eleven members and its experience conducting other broad studies on financial aid issues. The Advisory Committee also has the particular mission of examining the impact of these issues on low- and moderate-income students, a specific goal of the study.

The proposed agenda includes: (a) A discussion of the plan and direction for Phase II of the simplification study, and (b) election of officers. Space is limited, and you are encouraged to contact the Advisory Committee staff through the Advisory Committee staff office at (202) 219–2099 or via e-mail at ADV_COMSFA@ed.gov no later than Thursday, September 23, 2004, if you wish to participate. Also, you may contact the Advisory Committee staff at (202) 219–2099. The Advisory Committee will meet in Washington, DC via teleconference on Monday, September 27, 2004, from 1 p.m. until approximately 3 p.m.

Space is limited and you are encouraged to register early if you plan to participate. You may register through the Internet by e-mailing the Advisory Committee at ADV_COMSFA@ed.gov or at Tracy.Deanna.Jones@ed.gov. Please include your name, title, affiliation, complete address (including Internet and e-mail— if available), and telephone and fax numbers. If you are unable to register electronically, you may mail or fax your registration information to the Advisory Committee staff office at (202) 219–3032. Also, you may contact the Advisory Committee staff at (202) 219–2099. The registration deadline is Thursday, September 23, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board, Northern New Mexico

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Environmental Management Site-Specific Advisory Board (EM SSAB), Northern New Mexico. The Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92–463, 86 Stat. 770) requires that public notice of these meetings be announced in the Federal Register.

DATES: Wednesday, September 29, 2004, 1 p.m.— 3:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Cities of Gold Hotel, Pojoaque, NM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Monica Manzano, Northern New Mexico Citizens’ Advisory Board (NNM CAB), 1660 Old Pecos Trail, Suite B, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Phone (505) 995-0393; fax (505) 989–1752 or e-mail: mmanzares@doeal.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Purpose of the Board: The purpose of the Board is to make recommendations to DOE in the areas of environmental restoration, waste management, and related activities.

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

1 p.m.

Call to Order by Ted Taylor, Deputy Designated Federal official (DDFO);
Establishment of a Quorum;
Welcome and Introductions by Chair; Approval of Agenda;
Approval of Minutes of July 28, 2004

1:15 p.m.

Public Comment