XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community Released

At PESC’s Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit, Holly Hyland, Management Analyst in the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), announced the launch of the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community.

Available through the PESC website, the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community will house all XML core components and schemas approved by PESC Members through the Standards Forum for Education approval process. The Registry and Repository was developed and is operated by FSA and is administered by PESC. Note that access is free and open to the general public and to the education community.

The launch of the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community marks a significant milestone for PESC and the Education Community and illustrates FSA’s and PESC’s strong partnership and commitment to data exchange standardization.

Steering Committee Elections Held

Elections for the Standards Forum for Education’s Steering Committee are held each year at PESC’s Fall Membership Meeting. For the calendar year 2005, Members have elected:

Ed Hauser, General Manager, Sungard SCT
Holly Hyland, Management Analyst, FSA, US Department of Education
Bob King, Director of Strategic Development, Citibank
Adele Marsh, Vice President of E-Commerce Initiatives, AES
Bruce Marton, Associate Director of IT, University of Texas @ Austin

Congratulations to all Steering Committee members and thank you for serving this important function and role for PESC and the education community.
FSA’s Paul Hill Retires

“Looking back over the last couple of years, you can see that what PESC has accomplished is nothing short of amazing. As you know I will be retiring on November 3, 2004 after 36 years with FSA. As I am sitting in the recliner thinking back to the good old days, I will be recalling the noble mission of PESC, and the unending dedication and outstanding leadership of its membership in developing standards for the Education Community. Please extend my gratitude to the Board of Directors, the Membership, and the Education Community. And to you (Michael) and Ane a special thanks. You are amazing, and through your leadership I know that PESC will continue to make great strides for the Education Community.”

Sincerely,
Paul Hill Jr.

Note: At FSA’s most recent Senior Leadership Council, held Tuesday, October 12, 2004, Michael Sessa presented Paul Hill with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding contributions and service on the Steering Committee of the Standards Forum from 2002-2004.

In addition to his service on the Steering Committee, Paul was also instrumental in helping finalize the Common Record: CommonLine and Academic Transcript schemas, in creating a policies and procedures manual outlining the governance and change management process to be used in setting education standards, in guiding the launch of the 1st Annual Conference on Technology and Standards, and in helping launch the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community. Paul’s time, effort, and energy, has helped foster a community of collaboration and has set an example upon which we can truly follow and build.

Thank you Paul, we will miss you!

PESC Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit and Membership Meeting

Sponsored by Oracle and USA Funds, PESC’s Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit was successfully held on October 5-6, 2004 in Newport Beach CA. Highlights from the Summit include:

- Jerry Bracken of Brigham Young University reported that the Single Institutional ID Workgroup is focusing on two major issues: maintaining an accurate and up-to-date crosswalk of school codes; and standardizing foreign school codes.
- Bob King of Citibank announced that the Web Services Educational Primer is in its final draft and should be released to the general public within the next few months.
- Jason Elwood of Miami University-DARS announced the formation of a Degree Audit Request/Response Workgroup. Their first meeting is November 12, 2004 at 2pm. (See announcement on Page 5 of this edition of The Standard.)
- Adele Marsh of AES reported that schemas for the Online Loan Counseling are currently being finalized for submission through the PESC approval process.
- The Data Transport Workgroup, led by Kim Shiflette of USA Funds, held their first official meeting under the auspices of PESC.
- Mark Jones of the National Student Clearinghouse reported that schemas for the Request and Response of the XML Postsecondary Transcript are currently being finalized for submission through the PESC approval process.

See Workgroup, Page 3
Secondary to Postsecondary (S2P) Transcript

Preliminary work on a Secondary to Postsecondary Transcript Schema continues.

Bruce Marton, an instrumental architect of the PESC approved XML Postsecondary Transcript, has worked with SPEEDE and other early adopters and stakeholders on a working schema to be used for submission from secondary to postsecondary institutions.

The Georgia Board of Regents, Sungard SCT, Docufide, SPEEDE, and the California Student Information Services (CSIS), among others, are performing a gap analysis and providing feedback on the work done so far. Other early adopters and/or stakeholders are more than welcome to review this early work.

The next steps of this group include performing a gap analysis, taking in and considering feedback, then once a thoroughly reviewed and developed product is reached, PESC will host a community-wide conference call to kick-off the collaboration process. Any organization or representative looking to participate in this effort should contact Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

Fall Workgroup Presentations Available

Presentations from PESC’s Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit, held in Newport Beach, CA on October 5-6 of this year, are now posted and available on the PESC website. Visit www.PESC.org, under the “Events and Links” tab.

Workgroup, From Page 2

- Michael Sessa of PESC provided a comprehensive overview of current activities related to Authentication. Topics included updates on the Federal Government, FSA, the EAP, definitions and terminology, and a discussion on the business problem we face with authentication.
- Ane Johnson and Michael Sessa of PESC led a focus group on PESC’s website and solicited feedback on how to improve the current website (expect updates and improvements soon!)
- Holly Hyland of FSA announced the launching of the XML Registry and Repository for the Education Community and provided a tutorial on how to access and use the Registry.

Highlights from PESC’s Membership Meeting include:

- Elections for the 2005 Steering Committee of the Standards Forum for Education were held (See article in this edition of the Standard.)
- The focus of PESC’s Authentication Workgroup has been revised. The end result of the Workgroup will not be just a white paper. The workgroup will keep the Membership informed on current activities, will participate in the EAP, will promote higher education models, and provide education to the PESC Membership and community.
- Upcoming conferences and speaking engagements for PESC were announced and include: Educause’s Annual Conference, FSA’s EACs in Orlando and Las Vegas, CBA’s Student Lending Conference, NCHELP’s Fall Training, Oracle’s OpenWorld Conference, and JA-SIG’s Annual Conference.
- Discussion on PESC’s membership in OASIS.
- An update from Ane Johnson on PESC’s new Members and Affiliates since the last Membership Meeting including: University of Virginia, University of Maryland, Texas A & M University, Nuventive, Columbia University, Jenzabar, PeopleSoft, Lumina (upgraded from Affiliate to Member), and now Docufide, California School Information Services (CSIS), and the University of Illinois System.
- An overview of the new hierarchy of the Standards Forum for Education (See attached organizational chart.)
Snapshots from the Summit
Degree Audit Request/ Response

Workgroup Formed

As announced at PESC’s Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit held in Newport Beach, CA on October 5-6, 2004, PESC is hosting a community-wide conference call on Friday, November 12, 2004 from 2pm – 3pm EST. The call-in information is:

Friday November 12, 2004
2pm – 3pm EST
800-508-7631
*9976409*

As collaboration is one of the cornerstones of PESC’s principles, the purpose of this call, and of subsequent calls, is to provide the entire community with an opportunity to participate in this development process on a short-term workgroup basis.

The workgroup is charged with finalizing the most accurate, usable, and reliable candidate for a standard, that can then be submitted through the PESC standards approval process.

PESC will open the meeting, introduce attendees, provide an overview of the importance of collaboration on these types of development efforts, and then we will hand the meeting over to Jason Elwood of Miami University/DARS who will serve as the Chair of this development effort.

As you may know DARS and Oracle have developed schemas for the Request and Response of a Degree Audit based on PESC’s core components and data modeling guidelines.

Jason will provide an overview of what they are attempting to accomplish, its importance, how they got there, and solicit feedback.

The workgroup will then decide how often they want to meet (weekly, every two weeks, monthly, etc), on what days/times, and determine next steps on how to come to agreement on the best possible candidate.

Participation is open to PESC Membership. Other organizations or representatives looking to participate must first communicate with Ane Johnson at PESC, Johnson@PESC.org, 202-263-0296.

No registration is required to participate – you can simply dial into this call. Please share this message with anyone else you think might be interested in participating.

This message is being sent out through a number of listerves so I apologize if you receive it more than once.

We look forward to this kick-off meeting and to working with the community on development of this potential standard.

Core Main Updated v 1.0.1

Please be advised that PESC’s Core Main has been updated with version 1.0.1. An updated Core Main is posted on the PESC website at http://www.pesc.org/info/approved-standards.asp, and a listing of changes from version 1.0.0 is also provided.

Note that since these changes were identified by the Change Control Board as critical, all changes are effective immediately. It is the intention of the Standards Forum for Education to update Core Main on a quarterly schedule. All updates and communications will be issued in the Standard.
SPEEDE and PESC Partner for Winter 2005 Meetings

SPEEDE and PESC are pleased to announce a new partnership for 2005! SPEEDE will hold its semi-annual meeting in conjunction with PESC’s Winter 2005 Workgroup Summit at the Embassy Suites in San Diego CA. The schedule includes a series of meetings as follows:

**TUESDAY 2/15/05**
PESC Board Meeting
12:30pm – 5:30pm

**WEDNESDAY 2/16/05**
PESC Steering Committee Meeting
8:30am – 5pm

**THURSDAY 2/17/04**
PESC Winter 2005 Workgroup Summit
8:30am – 5:00pm

**FRIDAY 2/18/05**
PESC Winter 2005 Workgroup Summit
8:30am – noon

SPEEDE Committee Meeting
noon – 5pm

**SATURDAY 2/19/05**
SPEEDE Committee Meeting
8:30am – 5pm

**SUNDAY 2/20/05**
SPEEDE Committee Meeting
8:30am – 5pm

The Embassy Suites (www.ESSanDiegoBay.com) is located at 601 Pacific Highway, San Diego CA, 92101 and can be reached at 866-257-6786. The room rate is $139 + tax and reservations will be available within the next few weeks. When making reservations, be sure to use the group name “PESC.” The hotel also offers free shuttle service to and from San Diego International Airport (2 miles).

Calling All Volunteers

PESC has immediate openings for two new Advisory Boards formed to support the standards submission and approval process under the Standards Forum for Education.

The Submission Advisory Board is a standing, volunteer-based committee that serves as the first point of contact and review for any proposed standards submitted to prepare them for transmittal through the entire process and ultimately to the Change Control Board.

Technical expertise is not required as members would focus on the business case of a proposed standard. Industry knowledge and experience are more important in this role than technical. This Board would have 3-6 people on it and would be appointed by the Steering Committee. The role of Chair is also open.

The Technical Advisory Board is also a standing, volunteer-based committee that is responsible for updating and maintaining all technical specifications and for providing guidance on technical and architectural issues related to electronic standards and higher education. The highest priority now is for technical expertise on data transport.

Individuals who wish to directly participate are strongly recommended to possess the following skills to contribute in a technically meaningful way.

1) Must have JAVA or .Net expertise.

2) Should be familiar with one or more:
   - WebServices(SOAP)
   - LDAP
   - UDDI
   - SSL

See Volunteers, Page 7
Companies who wish to donate server time should have servers that meet the following criteria:

Current production quality machines with a publicly accessible address on the Internet. You must be able to receive files from arbitrary participants. Recommended minimum system capabilities:
- GHz x86 CPU
- 512 MB RAM as an absolute minimum
- 2-3 GB Disk space free
- Dedicated connection to the internet with inbound firewall
- Ports open and able to initiate connections to this machine
- On port 80 (HTTP) and 443 (HTTPS)

Anyone interested in volunteering on these Advisory Boards should contact Michael Sessa, at 202-293-7383 or at Sessa@PESC.org.

### New Members

PESC welcomes the following new organizations to its membership:

- **Docufide**
  PESC contact is John Reese, President.
  www.Docufide.com

- **California School Information Services (CSIS)**
  PESC contact is Russ Brawn, Chief Operations Officer.
  www.CSIS.k12.CA.US

- **University of Illinois System**
  PESC contact is Stephen Wheat, Enterprise Architect.

### PESC Board Grows, Appointments Made

As a sign of its expanding role and success, the Board of Directors of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) recently appointed Mark Jones, Vice President of Marketing and Business Development for the National Student Clearinghouse, as its first Vice Chair; and Pete Nalli, Director of Architecture and Software Development for Datatel, as Secretary.

“Mark and the National Student Clearinghouse are solid supporters of PESC and are active in the education community,” said Keith Riccitelli of Sallie Mae, PESC’s Chair of the Board of Directors. “The newly created position of Vice Chair strengthens the Board and provides a clear line of responsibility. Mark understands the importance of standards and his familiarity with the various sectors of higher education suits him well for this role,” Mr. Riccitelli added.

With the officer position of Secretary becoming vacant (as it had been held by Mr. Jones), Pete Nalli stepped up to serve in this position. “With over 30 years at Datatel, Pete’s experience brings value to the Board and provides us with great insight,” added Mr. Riccitelli.

Both Board appointments were made during their October 7, 2004 meeting held during the PESC Fall 2004 Workgroup Summit in Newport Beach, CA. The current roster of PESC’s Board of Directors now includes:

- **Keith Riccitelli**, Chair, Sallie Mae
- **Mark Jones**, Vice Chair, National Student Clearinghouse
- **Steve Biklen**, Treasurer, NASLA
- **Pete Nalli**, Secretary, Datatel
- **Michael Sessa**, Executive Director, PESC
- **Michael Berberet**, Pearson
- **Judith Flink**, University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Bill Hollowsky**, Oracle Corporation
- **Dallas Martin**, NASFAA
- **Dave Moldoff**, Sungard SCT
- **Robert Morley**, AACRAO
Formal Hierarchy
September 23, 2004
In a recent article aimed at explaining how to access and interact with remote soap-enabled services, Sun developer Qusay Mahmoud claims that **SOAP is the key to developing applications that feature web services messaging and interaction.** According to the article, “Sun’s SOAP with Attachments API for Java (SAAJ) provides a convenient API that can be used to create and process SOAP messages without having to write the XML yourself.” For more information and to download components, visit http://java.sun.com/developer/technicalArticles/WebServices/SOAP/

When it comes to standards, “The more people whose inputs and needs are taken into account, the better,” according to an IBM developerWorks article. The article defines and champions open standards, puts forth some warning signs about closed standards and touches on the need for standards, as well as how to get the most out of standard usage. To read the article in its entirety, visit http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/library/pa-spec1.html

Until recently, IBM had held off joining Oracle, Intel and Sun as a Liberty Alliance supporters, while pursuing its own identity management standard, but at the request of its client, European mobile telecommunications provider, Orange, IBM has joined the Liberty Alliance. “IBM will also become a board member of Liberty and seek to find a common ground between the Liberty standards and an overlapping set of specifications that IBM backs,” according to a CNET article. For additional information about IBM’s commitment, visit http://news.com.com/2100-7345_3-5420814.html. In addition to IBM, the Alliance was joined by seven other members, including, Adobe Systems,
DAI-Labor, Deny All, M-Tech Information Technology, Open-Network Technologies, Senforce Technologies and Telewest Broadband.

Cover Pages (http://xml.coverpages.org/ni2004-10-20-a.html) reports, “a new Open Standards Alliance became active on September 14, 2004 at the close of an inaugural meeting convened under the title “Open Source, Open Standards.” The group is being constituted as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization aimed at bridging the gap between standards bodies, software developers, and software users (consumers). It will operate with an industry-wide panel of companies to steer open standards throughout the software industry”

A recent Educause survey revealed that postsecondary institutions are working to limit peer-to-peer file trading and indicated a spike in wireless availability on campus. Survey data showed that the percentage of colleges restricting peer-to-peer file sharing increased nearly 6 percent between the 2001-2002 and the 2002-2003 school years. In the same time frame, the number of students owning computers jumped from 53 percent to 65 percent. However, the most significant jump was nearly doubling, from 49 percent to 80 percent, the number of colleges that make use of wireless technology in class-rooms. To access the report, visit www.educause.edu.

OASIS has announced the formation of four new technical committees to continue the work of the Data Center Markup Language (DCML) Organization within the OASIS DCML Member Section. The DCML is an XML-based specification for representing the contents of data centers and information used in managing those contents. The new committees include the Framework Technical Committee, Applications and Services Technical Committee, Server Technical Committee and Network Technical Committee. For more information, visit http://xml.coverpages.org/ni2004-09-29-a.html

Sun Microsystems Inc. has announced the availability of the J2SE (Java 2 Platform Standard Edition) 5.0. J2SE 5.0, aka Project Tiger, is one of the largest projects created through the Java Community Process, involving more than 100 major new features and 160 expert members’ participation, said Calvin Austin, Version 5.0’s specification lead and a Sun engineer. The upgrade had six themes: quality; performance and scalability; monitoring and management; the desktop client; ease of development; and support for XML. For additional information, visit: http://www.sun.com/about-sun/media/presskits/tiger/
The inventor of the World Wide Web recently told a technology conference that making the Web more useful hinges on a familiar challenge: Getting the players behind the technology to agree on standards governing how computers communicate with one another, according to a recent eWeek article. “It’s all about standards,” Berners-Lee told an audience of about 500 in a speech opening Technology Review magazine’s two-day Emerging Technologies Conference at the MIT. “Standards are the basis for any emergent technology.” The article may be found at http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1663093,00.asp

W3C has chartered a new Web Services Addressing Working Group as part of the W3C Web Services Activity. The goal of the Working Group is to produce a W3C Recommendation for Web Services Addressing by refining the “WS-Addressing” Member Submission. WS-Addressing defines how message headers direct messages to a service or agent, provides an XML format for exchanging endpoint references, and defines mechanisms to direct replies or faults to a specific location.

Fall 2005 Workgroup Summit and Membership Meeting

PESC is pleased to announce that the Fall 2005 Workgroup Summit and Membership Meeting will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlanta, GA. The Membership Meeting will take place on Tuesday October 11, 2005 from 10:00am – 11:30am and will be followed by a Membership Luncheon at noon. The Summit then kicks off at 1:00pm – 5:00 on Tuesday and continues on Wednesday October 12, 2005 from 8:30am – 5:00pm. The Sheraton Hotel is located at 165 Courtland Street, Atlanta GA, 30303 and can be reached at 800-833-8624 or 404-659-6500. The room rate is $145 and reservations must be made by September 19, 2005. When making reservations, be sure to use the group name “PESC.” PESC and AACRAO are pleased to continue their partnership throughout 2005!
Thursday, October 28, 2004

Banking on e-authentication

BY Florence Olsen
Published on Oct. 27, 2004

Banks are getting behind the federal government's E-Authentication initiative, giving a significant push to federal efforts to use electronic identities for e-government and e-commerce, said Steven Timchak, director of the initiative at the General Services Administration.

Speaking today at the Federal Information Assurance Conference in Adelphi, Md., Timchak said that he would soon announce the extent of the banks' participation. "We're meeting daily with major banks" to talk about E-Authentication, he said.

Federal officials plan to rely on the rigorous identity proofing that banks conduct on customers as a basis for identity credentials that people can use to do business online with the federal government. Other credential providers such as universities, airlines and states also will be involved in the E-Authentication initiative, Timchak said.

"We want to trust many credential providers," he said.

Much work remains to reach crucial agreements on business and policy issues, such as how much banks will charge the federal government for using the credentials and how disputes will be resolved, Timchak said.

Another conference speaker said that February 2005 will mark another important milestone in E-Authentication efforts. By then, National Institute of Standards and Technology officials must issue technical standards for a dual-use federal smart cards, said George Schu, vice president of public-sector business at VeriSign Inc.

Smart cards are meant to serve as proof-of-identity for all federal employees and contractors for gaining access to federal buildings, computer networks and information systems. The February deadline was set in a smart card directive known as Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, issued in December 2003. The mandatory use of smart cards will have a significant impact, Schu said.

Cryptographic technology on smart cards can create digital signatures on e-forms, he said. The Interior Department — which Schu described as a leader in this area — has 400
e-forms, including applications for drilling rights on federal land, ready to accept digital signatures, he said.

One date that won't affect E-Authentication and other e-government initiatives is Election Day, Timchak said. Those trends have a momentum that will not be affected by the Nov. 2 election results, regardless of who wins, he said.

"E-government initiatives are here to stay," Timchak said.
The Newsletter of the Electronic Standards Committee
Volume 10, Issue 16, 3rd Quarter 2004

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS
Bob King and Brian Allison

We would like to thank all of the Electronic Standards Committee member organizations that have been very generous in allowing their committee and advisory team members to devote so many hours to the work of the ESC. This dedication to the work of the committee continues to be very important to the overall good of the student loan community.

NCHELP Committee years run from July through June and we are fortunate to have a full complement of experienced and dedicated Advisory Team Leads to perform the detailed committee work. This year’s ESC Advisory Team and Workgroup leadership lineup is:

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<td>Change Transaction</td>
<td>Kristi Blabaum</td>
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<td>Darin Katzberg</td>
<td>Nelnet</td>
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<td>Communications and Training</td>
<td>Erin Rose</td>
<td>Key Education Resources</td>
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<td>Default Aversion and Claims</td>
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<td>John Gill</td>
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<td>Origination and Disbursement</td>
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<td>Kim Shiflette</td>
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<td>E-Sign Electronic Records Exchange Workgroup</td>
<td>Sherrie Hamp</td>
<td>Sallie Mae</td>
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(continued on page 3)
Common Record:
CommonLine Update
Kim Shiflette, USA Funds

The Origination and Disbursement (O/D) and Change Transaction (Change) Advisory Teams are currently focused on resolving new issues related to the Common Record: CommonLine (CRC) Implementation Guide and its corresponding schemas. Since the last board report the team successfully finalized all sections of the Implementation Guide. Additionally, the team completed the last scheduled CRC industry training session which was held in Portland Oregon, July 29th and 30th. This was the fourth training session presented by this team.

O/D and Change Advisory Team members are attending weekly conference calls held to address both outstanding and new CRC issues and necessary documentation revisions. The volume of issues is beginning to drop off some. Currently the team receives about 6 to 8 new issues a week. Outstanding and new CRC issues will continue to be discussed on existing weekly conference calls.

Going forward the Advisory Team will begin to focus on version management between the CRC documentation, schemas and testing tool. The Advisory Teams expect the implementation, version management and issue resolution of the new CRC process to consume our time over the next year.

GAMAT Team Update:
Document Revision
Rob Boisen Great Lakes, Michelle Fosnot, Sallie Mae

The GAMAT’s main activity in recent weeks has been documentation revision. The CAM specification has not been revised since July of 2001. Since that time many issues have been brought to GAMAT for review. Some of these issues have resulted in rulings that require documentation updates and coding changes. Others resulted in decisions not to accept the proposed changes at this time, but to consider the changes at some time in the future.

The GAMAT began by examining all issues brought to its attention since CAM's inception. We identified the following:

- All approved issues that had been included in the last documentation revision.
- All approved issues that had not yet been included in a documentation revision
- All issues marked for future review.
- Issues that would cease to exist if a 'Common Record: CAM' standard were developed and adopted. (Please note: there were only one or two such issues identified. These were related to field sizes and number of address lines.)

This exercise yielded a subset of issues to work (Continued on page 3)
DACAT Team Update
Marion Baker, AES

DACAT is currently working on documentation updates for Chapters 10-12 of the CAM manual. We hope to have our documentation to GAMAT by the ESC meeting in Washington DC. DACAT will be making changes to the Electronic layouts for claim submission for items to comply with the Taxpayer Relief Act pending DACS making similar changes to the claim form. Preliminary discussions with DACS may result in a joint meeting next year, possibly during the April ESC meeting in San Antonio.

GAMAT Team Update
(Continued from page 2)

from. The GAMAT first reviewed all issues that had been marked for future consideration. Issues from this list that were approved were added to the list of previously approved issues. The GAMAT then reviewed the list of previously approved issues to make sure that they were still relevant. This yielded a final list of approximately 25 issues that require documentation update.

A number of these issues relate to edits used by CAM-CCI. GAMAT and DACAT are working closely to communicate changes that affect both teams.

Deliverables / Goals

The GAMAT has obtained WORD versions of the most recent CAM documentation and is currently updating these documents directly. The team will review the documentation revisions on its biweekly calls with the goal of performing final documentation review at the October ESC meeting on Tuesday October 19.

Other potential CAM reporting changes

The GAMAT continues to monitor and discuss possible changes required by Exceptional Performer reporting and also the new NSLDS Consolidation reporting requirements.

Beta CR:C Testing Tool
(Continued from page 1)

The current version, Version 1.02, is available now on the NCHELP website. This version will handle the Request process for New and Pre-Guarantee Changes, and the Response process for Snapshot only.

The next version, Version 1.03, is expected to be available for use by the end of September. This version will handle the same processes as Version 1.02, in addition to the School Certification Request process, and the Disbursement Roster process. In addition, this version will have a file validator included, which can confirm the validity of any CR:C file evaluated, based upon the CR:C Schema. For this to be valid, the most recent Schema should be utilized.

The next major version after this will include the Post-Guarantee Change process of Request. This is expected to be available by the end of November. Other future releases will occur as needed, or as dictated by future NCHELP mandates.

Message from the Chairs
(Continued from page 1)

In addition, Lisa Oldre of Educational Loan Service Corporation is continuing as Secretary of the committee. We thank them all for their support and dedication to the Committee’s work.

Over the next several months our community will begin experiencing the first production implementations of the XML-based Common Record: CommonLine standard. This will be an exciting time for everyone who has invested so much energy into the development of the standard over the past two years. The O+D and Change teams have continued to resolve issues and update documentation. The Implementation Guide version is now 1.04. By November Testing and Certification will have completed and made available to everyone a set of test tools that organizations can use to validate test files. The test tools already

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completed are available on the NCHELP Website.

**Message from the Chairs**
*(Continued from page 3)*

In early October ESC will be fielding a questionnaire to software providers and service providers to ask for updated information about their CRC implementation plans and dates. The results will be compiled for discussion and review at the ESC meeting in October. Your assistance in assuring that your organization completes and returns the document is welcome and encouraged.

A very important aspect of CRC going forward is version management between the CRC documentation, CRC Schemas, and the testing tool. The Advisory Teams have begun to focus on solving the version management dilemma. Organizations need to be confident that there are consistent and compatible versions of the various standards and tools reliably available.

GAMAT and DACAT are updating the CAM specs and are exploring the pros and cons of beginning to work on an XML version of the CAM specifications. ESC supported by GAMAT also has a significant decision to make regarding what it should do with the Common Account Maintenance records, XML, and the CR:C structure. DACAT is also staying involved in discussions with the Department of Education about the efficacy of the Common Claim Initiative. It is also working closely with the Default Aversion and Claim Standardization Workgroup (DACS) to ensure consistency between the paper and electronic processes as DACS plans a January 2005 release of a new claim form with a number of changes. Additional fields for reporting TRA will definitely impact the electronic process.

EEAT continues to be very involved with the development of a Data Transport Standard (DTS). Having solved the interoperability problem the team has moved on to the SOAP header elements, digital signatures, test file sizes, and other items needed before the standard is completed. The DTS is proceeding under the auspices of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council to facilitate the continued involvement of the Department of Education in the development of the standard.

School Advisory is working closely with NSLDS to help solve the need for enhanced reporting that will support schools’ need for better reporting of the loans underlying a consolidation loan.

The e-Sign Electronic Records Exchange Workgroup is exploring what standards might be needed as the volume of e-signed records beginning to flow through back-end processes continues to accelerate.

The sum total of all of these efforts touches a wide range of our business functions. We welcome your input concerning any of the initiatives already underway and any ideas that you may have to address any unmet needs for standards.

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We welcome your feedback! What would you like to see in a future issue? Any suggestions or issues with existing articles, please contact Erin Rose at:

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