Notes from April 26, 2007 PESC Conference Call on Development of XML Standard for the Application for Admission

Discussion on the call was begun by Adriana Farella, chair of the Workgroup, at 4 minutes after the hour.

Review of Schema by the AACRAO SPEEDE Committee: The AACRAO SPEEDE Committee met prior to the PESC Conference on Standards and Technology in DC this past weekend. During that committee meeting, we did review a few selected parts of the proposed schema for admissions. Items discussed were

1. Making “LastName” a required data element within the complex data element of “Name”. There was no great concern with this but it was noted that this causes a problem when the “Name” data element is used again for “PreferredName”. If this is not changed to optional, then a workaround would be to place preferred name in the “LastName” data element field. For example, if the student indicates the preferred name is “Tom”, or “Mr. Student”, this information would have to be placed into the required “LastName” field.

2. “Contacts” was reviewed. It is important since every schema uses some form of contacts. The committee (mostly Bruce Marton, but all agreed with him) felt that we should not be using the data element “Category” to define what the other type of address is. He felt that if it is important enough to include it, then it should become another address like “PermanentAddress”. He didn’t think our categories of Billing, Campus, Emergency and Other were very useful. But if we felt that they were important, we should make them “BillingAddress”, “CampusAddress”, etc.

The same concern was expressed for the use of “Category” in phone, email, etc.

3. “AcademicRecord” was also discussed. The only comment was that we should probably change the name of this complex data element to something like “SelfReportedAcademicHistory” but not change anything else about it. It would still be of the type “AcademicRecord”.

Update to the Draft Implementation Guide: Tom is not promising, but hopes to distribute a new version of the Draft Guide just prior to our next call on May 3rd. The goal is to include some additional comments about things we have discussed and have not reached agreement, as well as those things on which we have agreement, but the schema has not yet been updated. If Tom really has time on his hands, he will also bookmark them so we can find them more easily. It is also hoped to clean up some of the tables that look really wacky.
Extra Curricular Activities: Today’s discussion was about questions asked on applications for admission about extra curricular activities in which applicants have participated.

After considerable discussion, I believe we tentatively agreed to the following:

We will use one complex data element called “ExtraCurricularActivityCategory”. A start of the list of these categories would include:

- Clubs and Organizations
- Community Service and Volunteering
- Hobbies
- Inventions, Patents, Research
- Leadership and Government
- Other
- Performing Arts (Music, Drama, Art, etc.)
- Professional Organizations
- Publications and Presentations
- Sports

For each of these above extra curricular activity categories, we will include the following data elements (all would be optional):

**ActivityCode:** There is an old code set in the EDI TS 189 Implementation Guide. It is a three digit code now, which could possibly be converted to word codes.

**Description:** This would be free form text that could be used with or without the above activity code to describe the activity.

**Grade Level:** The values would be Grade9, Grade10, Grade11, Grade12 or Postsecondary.

**Date Began:** The date (year and month) the applicant started participating in this activity.

**Date Ended:** The date (year and month) the applicant stopped participating in this activity.

**Number of Years:** The number of years the applicant participated in this activity.
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**Week Hours:** The typical number of hours per week that the applicant participated in the activity.

**Year Weeks:** The typical number of weeks per year (12 month period?) that the applicant participated in the activity.

**Recognitions:** Special positions held, honors or recognitions received, (sports) letters earned, etc.

**Activity Scope:** If the activity, leadership position, or recognition is local, regional, national or international, it could be included in this data element.

**Organizational Sponsor:** If the activity is sponsored by some national or regional organization, it could be indicated here.

**Leadership Position:** The applicant would describe the type of leadership position held in the activity.

**Leadership Position Type:** An indication if the leadership position was an elected or non-elected position.

We ended today’s call at 53 minutes after the hour.

**Next Call:** On the next call, we plan to discuss specific questions asked on applications for admission. The issues are where to include them in the schema, as well as how to include them. The next call will be Thursday, May 3, at noon Eastern (11 am Central, 10 am Mountain, 9 am Pacific) Daylight Saving Time. Call 800.508.7631; Pass code *9976409*.
On today’s call were (exactly the same participants as on last week’s call)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>School/Company</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adriana Farella, Chair</td>
<td>Executive Director, Strategy and Analytics, Enrollment</td>
<td>The College Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin S. Greene</td>
<td>Associate Director, Technology &amp; Internet Services, and Member, AACRAO SPEEDE Committee</td>
<td>The College Foundation of North Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Haney</td>
<td>Assistant Registrar for Admissions</td>
<td>University of Lethbridge (Alberta)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kay Harris</td>
<td>Principal Product Manager</td>
<td>Oracle Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Nasr</td>
<td>Manager of Client Services</td>
<td>Xap Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl Rich</td>
<td>Associate Director of Admissions</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debi Sandul</td>
<td>Associate Registrar</td>
<td>University of Lethbridge (Alberta)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clare Smith-Larson</td>
<td>Coordinator, Project EASIER &amp; Member of AACRAO SPEEDE Committee</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>John T. “Tom” Stewart</td>
<td>College Registrar (Retired) &amp; Member of AACRAO SPEEDE Committee</td>
<td>Miami Dade College (FL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Zimmer</td>
<td>Advisory Consultant</td>
<td>SunGard Higher Education</td>
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