

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Annual Report of the Regent Committee on Educational Relations (RCER)
Date: October 9, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive the Annual Report of the Regent Committee on Educational Relations (RCER).

Executive Summary:

The Regent Committee on Educational Relations (RCER) is charged with establishing closer relationships and cooperation with secondary and postsecondary educational institutions within the state. RCER facilitates articulation between secondary schools and colleges in the state. The Committee recommends policies that determine the acceptability of credit from the various institutions sending students to the Regent universities. RCER recommends modifications in general policy to the Board of Regents regarding admissions policies. The Committee reports to the Board of Regents through the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC). The ICEC has reviewed this report and recommends its acceptance.

The Committee's activities are consistent with the Board of Regents Strategic Plan, Key Result Area (KRAs), specifically 2.0.0.0, to provide access to educational opportunities within the missions of the Regent institutions, and 4.0.0.0, to provide effective stewardship of the institutions' state, federal, and private resources.

Background:

In addition to meeting its 1999-00 goals, the Committee collaborated with internal and external groups to engage in meaningful discussions and to accomplish several projects during the past year. The goals, projects, and discussions that warrant specific mention include:

- RCER sponsored a statewide conference on the electronic exchange of student academic records. Fourteen of the fifteen community college districts participated, along with the three Regent universities. The Iowa Department of Education co-sponsored the conference. The Iowa Department of Education has also been active with Project Easier, an electronic student records exchange system between public K-12 school districts and the Regent universities. Many community college districts have agreed to continue working on the exchange of student transcripts. Each Regent university will provide technical and on-site assistance to five community college districts. Currently, Kirkwood and Hawkeye Community Colleges are in active interaction status with the Regent universities. While the 99-00 goal of 50% participation was not achieved, more community colleges are actively involved, and RCER's participation efforts will continue.
- RCER accepted the Committee on Alternative High School report and forwarded it to ICEC. The report, which reflects a multi-year effort by faculty, academic affairs, and admissions representatives, recommends desired outcome achievements by high school students in core academic subjects. The Committee's goal is to establish a standard for the preparation of students for entry and success at the Regent universities.
- RCER revised a policy statement on the acceptance of college credit earned by students currently enrolled in high school. This policy statement, approved by ICEC in May 2000, serves as "best practice" guidelines for colleges and students who participate in such enrollments. RCER intends for the policy statement to be widely distributed to high school personnel, students, and parents, as well as serve as the model for the presentation of college coursework to high school students.
- RCER received feedback from the Liaison Articulation Committee on Transfer Students (LACTS) for possible revisions to the statewide articulation agreements on the Associate of Arts degree and vocational-technical credit. RCER revised and approved both articulation agreements. ICEC and the Presidents Committee of the Iowa Community Colleges approved the revised policies.
- RCER thoroughly discussed the mandates placed on the universities from the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1998. The goal of these discussions was to better understand what is required of the universities and to coordinate timely compliance.

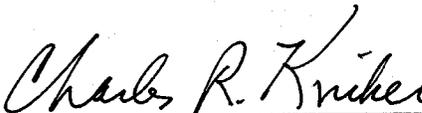
- At the direction of the Board Office, RCER reviewed the following Regent Guide Procedural policies: 6.01 Admissions Requirements Common to the Universities; 6.19 Withholding Student Transcripts; and 6.22 Classification of Residents and Non-Residents. RCER discussed the policies for general intent and made suggestions for further institutional review.

The Committee proposes three goals for 2000-01:

- (1) To respond to general educational and articulation issues for the state and specific concerns from the Interinstitutional Committee on Educational Coordination (ICEC);
- (2) To continue to advocate the electronic exchange of academic records among all educational levels within the state;
- (3) To facilitate exchange visitations between and among representatives of the Iowa community colleges and Regent universities.

Officers for 2000-01 are Dr. Jerry Dallam (SUI), Chair and Dr. Susan Koch (UNI), Secretary.

The RCER Annual Report is found in the Regent Exhibit Book.



Charles R. Kniker

Approved: 

Frank J. Stork