



Tier Group 1 Meeting Notes
June 18, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM ET

Table with 4 columns: Category (PRESENT, EXCUSED, STAFF), Name, Title, and Role. Lists attendees like Nickolas Sojka, Greg Lynch, and staff members like Cherise Imai.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:03 PM ET by Tier Group 1 Facilitator and North Carolina Commissioner Nickolas Sojka.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

2. Operations Coordinator Allie Thomas conducted roll call. As the tier groups are not formal committees of the Commission, per Robert’s Rules, a quorum was not necessary. Nine of the ten Tier Group 1 states were present.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. The meeting agenda was displayed for attendees to view.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

4. Finance: Budget, Dues, and Reserve Policy Discussion – Commission Treasurer and Washington Commissioner Greg Lynch reported the Finance Committee was tasked with evaluating and analyzing the Commission’s long-term financial viability to project a new multi-year budget and develop a new strategic plan for fiscal years (FY) 2026-2028.

5. Commissioner Lynch asked the group members how much time their states would need to plan for and adjust to a dues increase. Commissioner Dan Dunham (VA) reported the Virginia Department of Education paid the dues for his state and that the budget was determined by the Governor and General

Assembly. He stated that two years would be sufficient time to plan for a dues increase. Mr. Erickson stated that one year would be sufficient time for Hawaii to plan and implement a dues increase, but two years would be preferred.

6. Commissioner Curtis Jones (GA) agreed that two years would be enough time for Georgia to plan and prepare. He stated that it would be best to discuss the dues increase over two Annual Business Meetings (ABM): one meeting to vote and approve the increase, and then a second meeting to prepare for the implementation. Commissioner Shelley Ramos (TX) agreed that two years was enough time for Texas depending on what year the dues increase would be approved and implemented. Texas submits their budget for approval in the fall of even years and then receives access to the funds in the fall of odd years.

7. **Secretary of Education Request: Good, Better, Best Practices** – Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reported the Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cordona, had requested for the Commission to provide a list of best practices related to implementing the Compact so that he can promote the Compact. The list was formatted in three tiers: good, better, and best practices. Examples included how many State Council meetings a state could be encouraged to hold each year and Commissioner attendance at appointed Standing Committee meetings. The Tier Group was asked to review the items listed under good, better, and best practices and provide additional items or additional language to existing items for clarification and context.

8. Commissioner Berg commented that the good, better, and best practices could be articulated more clearly with better distinction between the categories. She recommended adding reasoning to the listed items to explain the purpose the practices serve to Commissioners and add clarification to explain how the size of a state affects the way they implement Compact practices.

9. Commissioner Dunham stated that he believed the best practices list would help to engage active learning towards the Compact and would increase overall interaction with new Commissioners. Commissioner Jones agreed that the listed practices were very beneficial for new Commissioners and stated that he would share the document with his State Council members during his next meeting.

10. **Discussion on Compact Rules, SEC 5.104 Placement Flexibility** – Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow reported Nevada Commissioner Felicia Gonzales had submitted a proposed Rules amendment for *SEC. 5.104 Placement Flexibility*. The Nevada Commissioner had proposed the amendment following a case regarding misalignment of semesters and the flexibility to waive required seat time. The student completed the first semester at the sending school and immediately transitioned to the receiving school for the second semester. An overlap in the sending school's first semester end date and the second semester start date at the receiving school resulted in the student missing three weeks of seat time at the receiving school. The transition was due to the custodial parent's deployment. Once the parent returned from deployment, the student returned to the sending school for the following school year, where it was discovered that the receiving school did not award grades or credit for the previous semester due to the three weeks of missed seat time which were required in the receiving state. The Tier Groups were asked by the Rules Committee to discuss whether any of the Commissioners had used Rule SEC. 5.104 before or had cases where required seat time was an issue to gain insight on how or if an amendment would affect case resolutions.

11. Commissioner Berg stated Hawaii had a similar case involving a senior student where they had asked for a reciprocal diploma from the sending school, which was granted under *Rules, SEC. 4.101 - Waiver Requirements*. She asked whether SEC. 4.101 could apply to younger years of high school for waiving seat time when the same course credits or grades would apply later when it came time for the

student to graduate. ED Imai stated that was a good question and that she would investigate that as a solution for future cases.

12. Commissioner Lynch stated he was cautious about instituting Rules and that looser definition was better to maintain flexibility. He mentioned that many other cases had been resolved without a Rule change. Commissioner Dunham asked why *Rules, SEC. 5.101 – Course Placement* had not been considered for this case. ED Imai responded that course placement was not questioned for this case because the receiving school had correctly placed the student in courses that were parallel to the sending school.

13. Commissioner Ramos commented that Texas encourages the receiving school to award the credit if they have evidence the course was the same as the sending school and the student proved mastery of content. Commissioner Mary Gable (MD) agreed and stated that she would always want more flexibility when applying a Rule to best accommodate the student. A Rule with too much definition could become more restricting and would be less efficient for resolving cases.

14. Commissioner Terrance McCaffrey (FL) asked whether the current Rule could be amended to include examples of what schools could be flexible with when waiving requirements. Commissioner Gable responded that the Rules language does not contain examples for each Rule, but examples could be provided in other documents for clarification. She stated that the Rules Committee had requested a legal advisory from General Counsel for *Rules, SEC. 5.104* and that examples were listed in the document. Commissioner Berg commented that legal review was the best way to prove Rule enforcement when schools could not agree to resolve a case using the Rule verbiage directly.

#### **ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

15. **Commission Annual Deadlines** – Commissioner Sojka reminded Members June 30 was the end of FY2024 and each member state was required to have held a State Council meeting, submitted their End-of-Year Report, and submitted their state dues payment by then. He noted the national office could be contacted if anyone had questions or needed assistance.

#### **ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT**

16. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Sojka adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM ET.