



Tier Group 2 Meeting Notes
Monday, June 17, 2024
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM ET

Table with 4 columns: Category (PRESENT, EXCUSED, STAFF, GUEST), Name, State/Role, and Title. Lists attendees including Debra Jackson, Dale Brungardt, Cherise Imai, and Greg Lynch.

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 PM ET by Tier Group Two Facilitator and New York Commissioner Debra Jackson.

ITEM 2 – ROLL CALL

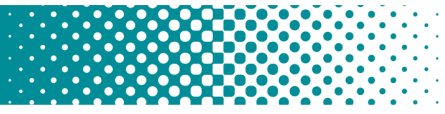
2. Operations Coordinator Allie Thomas conducted roll call. As the tier groups are not formal committees of the Commission, per Robert’s Rules, a quorum was not necessary. Half of the Tier Group 2 states were present as established by the attendance of seven state Compact Commissioners. Commission Treasurer and Washington Commissioner Greg Lynch was welcomed as a guest to moderate the discussion for an item on the agenda.

ITEM 3 – AGENDA

3. Commissioner Jackson reviewed the agenda with the group.

ITEM 4 – NEW BUSINESS

4. Finance: Budget, Dues, and Reserve Policy Discussion – Commissioner 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 reserve policy for fiscal years (FY) 2026-2028. He reviewed the factors to consider when planning a dues increase and evaluating the use of reserve funds,



including rising inflation and declining numbers of military-connected students, and analyzing all the Commission expenditures to determine how costs could be eliminated or minimized. The two largest expenditures of the Commission were staffing costs and the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) expenses.

5. Commissioner Jackson reported the Finance Committee was reviewing more than just a dues increase and was working to ensure the Commission had enough funds to do the work required for the Compact. The goal was to start the budget conversation early enough so the Compact Commissioners could discuss the finances with their State Councils and determine how much time they would need to plan and adjust for a dues increase. Commission Chair and Louisiana Commissioner Ernise Singleton commented that an overall review of the Commission and its operations was needed and would provide financial insights for the Finance Committee to support their recommendation to the EXCOM.

6. Commissioner Lynch asked the group members how much time their states would need to plan for and adjust to a dues increase. Commissioner Singleton stated Louisiana operates on a multi-year budget and that two years would be sufficient to incorporate a dues increase into the budget. Commissioner Pete LuPiba (OH) reported four members of Ohio's State Council were legislative members, and they would be the ones that he would discuss the budget with to see if two years would be enough time for his state to budget additional money towards the annual dues payment. Commissioner Don Enoch (AK) agreed that two years would be enough for a smaller state such as Alaska to plan for a dues increase.

7. Commissioner Lynch asked the group members how much training they expect for their states and what they think the training requirements should be. Commissioner Singleton stated the national office does a great job of making sure training is clear and available for the states and that the information is accurate because the trainings are consistent. Commissioner LuPiba commented that Ohio has 600 schools that are Purple Star designated, using the Compact training to meet the Professional Development section of the program requirements. The training is valuable for providing information to those schools and marketing the Compact to educators.

8. **Secretary of Education Request: Good, Better, Best Practices** – Commissioner Jackson introduced a request from the Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cordona, for a list of best practices related to the Commission in a “good, better, best practices” format. Executive Director (ED) Cherise Imai reviewed the outlined practices and advised the group that the practices were not to be used for evaluating or comparing the States and that they were only suggestions. The group was asked to provide feedback or commentary on the list. Commissioner Jackson commented that timeliness is important for paying dues, but there were no other ways to implement best practices other than paying by the deadline as already required. No other comments were received. Group members were advised to contact the national office with any recommendations or feedback should they have anything to add or clarify.

9. **Rules, SEC. 5.104 Placement Flexibility Discussion** – Commissioner Jackson introduced a Rule Amendment that was proposed by the Nevada Commissioner for *Rules SEC. 5.104 Placement Flexibility* and reviewed a case regarding misalignment of semesters and missing seat time requirements. Training and Operations Associate Lindsey Dablow reviewed the background of the case and provided what information the Rules Committee was seeking to gain. The group was asked to share whether they had received similar cases and provide feedback on the proposed amendment.

10. Commissioner LuPiba stated that Ohio has received many similar cases where the semesters do not align between the sending and receiving schools. Commissioner Jackson agreed that misalignment of semesters was a large issue for New York students because their semesters end later than most of the other states. She reported that those cases are usually resolved by awarding the student credit based on the grade they had at the time of transfer or requesting a reciprocal diploma from the sending state. She did not believe the rule needed extra clarification.

11. Commissioner Singleton reported Louisiana uses instructional minutes for earning course credit, but she hopes that a school would be flexible to accept completed course work to award credit without the seat time requirement so that a student does not have to retake any courses or be held back from graduating. The language of the Rule should be left open enough to not become restricting when the intent is to provide schools flexibility to make accommodations.

12. Commissioner Lynch commented that many school districts use seat time requirements to evaluate their funding structure. He supported the language of the rule as is because the flexibility to waive requirements is already included in the current language.

13. Commissioner Peter Laing (AZ) agreed that schools should be flexible when resolving cases. He stated that demonstration of proficiency or mastery of course matter would be more valuable than seat time when assisting with student transfers and placement.

14. ED Imai reported that the Rules Committee had requested a legal advisory from General Counsel, and the advisory was on the agenda to approve at their next meeting. Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin (TN) asked whether it would be worth it to change a rule over one case. Commissioner Jackson stated that many similar cases have already happened in New York so it would be more than just the one case that could be affected. Chair Singleton commented that one case could become precedent for more difficult cases in the future and that the Rules Committee was evaluating whether the change would be useful or if the legal advisory was sufficient to address future cases.

ITEM 5 – OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

15. Commissioner Jackson reminded the members that the deadline to submit their End-of-Year Reports and hold State Council meetings was June 30, 2024. She asked for any new topics, questions, or comments. There were no additional comments.

ITEM 6 – ADJOURNMENT

16. **Commissioner Lynch motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner LuPiba.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM ET.