

## ACG/SMART Negotiated Rulemaking Meeting Summary for March 6, 2007

### Overview of the day

Negotiators discussed three issues: recognition of rigorous secondary school programs of study, interpreting prior enrollment, and academic year progression. At the end of the meeting, the facilitator summarized the status of each issue.

### Recognition of rigorous secondary school programs of study

A discussion paper delineating three options for rigorous secondary school programs of study and two options for documenting a rigorous program was presented to the group. In general, the group appeared to favor the current regulations. The third option under rigorous programs - aligning rigor to the coursework admission requirements of the state's most selective public university - was seen as too limiting to states, although members appeared to understand that aligning rigor with higher education requirements in some way was important. There was also some discussion around the validity of the AP/IB option and whether other vendors (such as ACT's Quality Core) should be added if this option was retained. Group members also favored the idea of allowing states to put forth rigorous secondary school programs of study for out-years.

For documentation of rigorous programs, in relationship to data flow of eligible students in the second option, there was concern that states would be unable to provide information to FSA in time to process awards. NGA's representative indicated that NGA would like to see a rigor designation on provided on high school transcripts.

### Interpreting prior enrollment

Tentative agreement was reached on the language provided by ED for interpreting prior enrollment.

### Academic Year progression

To highlight differences in academic year progression in differing scenarios, several case studies were presented to the group. Group members remained concerned that students with AP/IB credits or those who had been dually-enrolled should be able to receive SMART grants earlier than they can now, but also appeared to understand that to accomplish this would require a legislative fix.

### Issue status

The group reached tentative agreement on the following issues: Mandatory participation, disbursement of Pell and ACG or National SMART Grants at the same institution, coursework and eligibility for disbursement under GPA issues, prior enrollment, both majors issues, and Departmental monitoring of disbursements (although this one has no regulatory language associated with it).

The group provided input to the following issues: rigorous secondary school program of study recognition, eligibility of certificate programs, transfer student GPA, timing of GPA calculation, academic year progression, and clarifying completion of rigorous secondary school program of study.