

STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Innovation and Online Committee
November 2, 2016

SUBJECT: State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

For information

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2010, the United States Department of Education promulgated a rule requiring educational institutions receiving Title IV funding to comply with any state requirements that may pertain to offering distance education courses and activities to students residing in those states. Although this rule was subsequently invalidated by a federal court for failure to follow federal rulemaking requirements, it placed institutions on notice that individual states may require institutions to adhere to state-specific regulatory requirements before an institution could offer its distance education courses to students residing in those states.

In an effort to standardize regulatory requirements across the country, members of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association worked with representatives of the Council of State Governments to develop a uniform State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and an organizational structure to implement the agreement. In order for institutions to participate in SARA, their home state must first become a member. Representatives of the State University System, the Florida College System, the ICUF institutions and the Commission for Independent Education have been working together to craft proposed legislation that would authorize the State of Florida and postsecondary institutions based in Florida to participate in the agreement, if enacted by the Legislature. Members will be provided with an update on those efforts.

Supporting Documentation Included: None

Facilitators/Presenters: Ms. Vikki Shirley