

**Meeting with Barry Morrow and Cameron Isahq  
November 18, 1999 Chicago O'Hare/Kennedy Holiday Inn 1:00 p.m.**

**General Goals:**

- Before we adjourn, make sure Barry and Cameron clearly understand the inherent link that exists between the federal application process and state grant agencies award processes.
- Demand (politely) that the Department acknowledge that this federal/state relationship exists in the next Five-year Performance Plan and Modernization Blueprint editions, and that language clearly outlines the specific services the Department will offer to state grant agencies.
- Demand a high level Department official serve as the primary contact for state grant agencies as it relates to matters that directly affect them.
- Determine if the primary contact assigned to work with state agencies will be an advocate for states or a conduit for information to pass between states and Greg Woods.

**Specific Topics for Discussion, Emphasis, Clarification:**

- Underscore the fundamental link that exists between the FAFSA and its related processes, and state grant award processes. This includes, *but is not limited to*:
  - The form's design, including questions asked and how they are asked. Electronic signatures: Has the Department looked into how state laws might conflict with this initiative?
  - The ISIR Record Layout, (access to data fields, paying the CPS to answer process-related questions). Access to NSLDS is an example of state's being overlooked in this process
  - The manner in which need analysis and the methodology used to calculate eligibility for Title IV aid impacts how member states distribute their funds to students.
- Comment that the Blueprint fails to mention states and their relationship to the GEAR UP program, the Robert Byrd Programs, and the Paul Douglas Program.
- The Office for Student Financial Aid (OSFA) has stated that it would like to work with the Postsecondary Education Standards Council (PESC), the National Automated Clearing House Association (NACHA), and with other organizations to develop standard for using a single identifier for students. OSFA further states that for financial partners the present OPE-ID appears to be the most efficient non-duplication identifier and that the number should be structured so that it can identify granular detail. OSFA has stated that groups such as PESC and other (who are the others?) should develop standards that facilitate fast and easy communications between students, OSFA and the business partners, and that when a standards-formulating body has special skills or experience (PESC and NACHA), they should be sought out to lead creation of a new standards the community will support. What relationship does OSFA see for state agencies insofar as participating in discussions with PESC and NACHA as it relates to these issues? In short, NASSGAP wants a clearer picture of the role PESC and NACHA will play in the grand scheme the Department's modernization efforts.

There are other items but I've been in meetings all morning and I know some of you may be heading to airports if you have not already left. I apologize if this comes too late. Write your thoughts down and we'll discuss Thursday morning.

Dennis O

