President's Compliance Update – Fall 2013

The Water Cooler
- The Department of Education released Gainful Employment Rule Draft language in late August. As part of the rule-making process, these initial drafts point towards where DOE is headed, but should not be taken as final. If regulations continue in this same direction, there is potential to change how programs are evaluated, processes for appealing DOE’s data, and a change in disclosing information to students.

Chronicle Article

- President Obama has been very vocal in the last few months about quality in higher education. His most recent speeches have focused on creating a new ranking system to measure quality programs. This has met considerable criticism, especially from those institutions that have open enrollment or serve disadvantaged students – as graduation and job placement could become key indicators of success. Margaret Spellings, prior Secretary of Education, spoke about Obama’s plans in a September interview as well.

Chronicle Article
Inside Higher Education Article (Margaret Spellings)

The Praxis
- GCC submitted its first report to the Office of Civil Rights in accordance with the Voluntary Compliance Plan. While many of the facilities changes have already been made, the institution may move the early fall review of these changes to December. This will save the evaluator from making two visits to assess those projects that are just being completed in late fall.

- The Debt to Income Ratio white paper and Office of Civil Rights Report were shared with the Executive Leadership Team in August, and will be provided to the Chairs at an upcoming meeting. After these have been thoroughly reviewed, the implementation of these initiatives will begin.
The Radar
-Speculation has begun regarding reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The summary article by Inside Higher Education gives a glimpse into the focus DOE and the President will likely have in the near future.

Inside Higher Education Article

-The Department of Education received a resignation from their under secretary last month. The number of leaders at DOE has continued to dwindle, making many in higher education ponder how the Department can enforce old regulation, while at the same time initiating new rule changes.

Inside Higher Education Article

-Northern Arizona University students enrolled in a competency-based program will now receive a secondary transcript regarding competency based outcomes. Competency based programs are growing, but some experts in the assessment community worry about standards to establish competency.

Inside Higher Education Article

-Full subsidization of higher education is a topic that has been picking up steam in the last few years. Whether the Oregon program, or something similar, will continue is any one’s guess, but the discussion itself has garnered considerable attention from all corners of higher education.

Chronicle Commentary Article
Chronicle Article (Oregon Program)