Authentication Issues and NEASC

My understanding from Barbara Brittingham is that NEASC would expect the student verification requirements to be satisfied through a combination of technology protections, good online pedagogical practices, and appropriate institutional policies on academic integrity.

Technology protections:
- Specifically that all online courses require an individual log on and password
- Institutions might also have in place policies around high stakes testing which require either a technological solution (locked down browsers, etc) or an on ground proctored exam and/or allow for such alternative forms/location of testing. Remember that student's must be informed before they register of requirements for proctored testing and any costs involved.

Sound pedagogy assumes that the courses include a range of assessment methods which essentially "identify" the student. Among others these could include:
- assignments and activities in which appropriate sharing and collaboration is essential to successful completion.
- Asking students follow-up questions to assignments such as, "expand upon this statement you made," "tell me why you chose this phrase, description or reference," and "expand upon the ideas behind this reference."
- Selecting one or two difficult concepts from the paper and asking the student to restate/rewrite the information.
- Requiring students to share key learning from references for a paper or self-reflection on an assignment in the discussion board.
- Using the discussion board in ways that include personal reflections on readings, work submitted, etc.
- Disaggregating assignments such as research papers, so that each part can be reviewed and revised before the entire paper is handed in.
- Incorporating a wide variety of such assessment strategies

Academic Integrity:
- Institution has in place appropriate policies to promote the academic integrity of its online courses. And these policies are widely disseminated.
- Clear policies and sanctions regarding not sharing passwords and not using other students' passwords
- Syllabi include language to help students understand the issues and sanctions regarding academic integrity issues both in the specific online class and in the institution as a whole.

The response to NEASC might also focus on:
- the type of faculty training that is provided to help faculty use these types of pedagogy and technology,
- any reviews that the dl coordinators do of courses to ensure they meet these standards,
- any training the institutions do for students in their online courses on academic integrity
- How academic integrity is dealt with in online orientation courses.
- Any required language in a course syllabus that pertains to these issues.