

**NH Department of Education
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission
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February 7, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Higher Education Commission
From: Edward R. MacKay, Director
Subject: Director's Report

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

More than eight hundred bills have been filed in the House or Senate, and the Division and the NH Department of Education are actively tracking numerous bills with potential implications for the postsecondary education community. Several bills (and one resolution, HCR 2) would address concerns regarding workforce development, the net price of higher education and/or student debt. There is also the Children's Savings Account bill described at a prior meeting, and a bill that would authorize creation of a savings account program for individuals with disabilities. The following lists the most relevant bills with the description provided by Legislative Services, but please note the list may not be comprehensive as in some cases the final language of legislative proposals is not known and may reveal a postsecondary education connection, and of course, bills are revised as the process moves forward:

HCR 2 Supporting efforts to ensure that students from New Hampshire have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities.

HB 180 Requiring postsecondary education institutions to compile and submit reports on remedial education courses.

HB477 Relative to free speech on campuses in the university system and the community college system

HB603 Establishing the John and Molly Stark student debt reduction program

HB604 Establishing the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program

HB605 Establishing a scholarship for students pursuing careers in the service of children and the elderly.

HB606 Establishing a scholarship fund for health care providers who stay in New Hampshire for 5 years and making an appropriation therefor

HB607 Establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program

HB609 Establishing a children's savings account program and making an appropriation therefor.

HB641 Relative to high school students participating in New Hampshire's dual and concurrent enrollment program

HB642 Relative to eligibility to vote and relative to student identification cards

HB647 Establishing education savings accounts for children with disabilities

For further information on any bill, the link to N.H. General Court is as follows:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/quick_search.html

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

In November, the Director attended the annual meeting of representatives from states participating in Complete College America (CCA) with a team that included individuals from the Community College System and the University System of New Hampshire. The commitment to CCA was announced by then Governor Hassan last spring and has been endorsed by the NHCUC, CCSNH, and USNH. Institutions are implementing the CCA “game changers” with the goal of increasing college persistence and timely graduation rates.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

Director MacKay’s appointment ended in August, 2016, and the selection of a new Director was deferred until after the elections. It is now time to start the search and Commission Chair Leach will discuss the process during the meeting.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

The following in-state institutions forwarded required reports:

Colby-Sawyer College – Master of Science in Nursing

Southern New Hampshire University – Annual Report for the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing.

Per revised Hedc 406.02, N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, annual and/or other reports shall be reviewed by the Director, who shall report compliance to the Commission. The above reports were received, read, and accepted.

In addition, **St. Joseph School of Nursing** had a Focused Evaluation visit from the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) on November 15-16, 2016. James Margeson IV, Administrator for the Veterans Education Services, served as the Commission observer for the site visit. The School was asked by the ACCSC to provide some additional information, which will be supplied and reviewed prior to the May 9, 2017 Commission meeting. Commission approval for the School to offer

an Associate of Science in Nursing degree expires on August 31, 2017. Thus, Commission members can expect an action item for the May agenda that will be informed by information received by that date and the ongoing review by James, which may involve additional visits to the School.

New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) Activity:

Northeast Catholic College was granted candidacy status by NEASC in 2013, and had a Focused Evaluation Visit on November 6-8, 2016 with Dr. Richard Gustafson serving as the Commission observer. His report states the College is making good progress with its strategic initiatives, especially in fundraising, recruitment, retention, and outcomes assessment. However, while President Harne and the Trustees are optimistic about the future, concerns persist in the College's ability to meet its enrollment and financial goals. The achievement of enrollment targets, revenue growth, debt reduction/restructuring, and continued success in fundraising are top priorities. The NEASC currently plans to conduct a Comprehensive Evaluation Visit for initial accreditation in spring, 2018, and the College needs to present evidence of financial viability in its self-study.

The NEASC focused visit team will present its draft report to the College and then a final report to the NEASC, along with the team's confidential recommendation. The NEASC will take up the report at its spring, 2017 meeting and communicate its decision to Northeast Catholic College. Higher Education Commission approval for the College expires June, 2017. Given the likelihood of some resolution of the College's debt and debt structure in the near future, Dr. Gustafson advised the Higher Education Commission stay in close communication with the College regarding these events. This timing will enable the Commission to receive notification of NEASC's findings prior to its May, 2017 meeting, and Commission members can expect an action item for that agenda that will be informed by the NEASC report and Dr. Gustafson's recommendations.

The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts had a Comprehensive Evaluation November 13-16, 2016 with Dr. Richard Gustafson serving as the Commission observer. His report states the College has made encouraging strides over the past eighteen months. The Board and President Fahey are moving ahead on strategic priorities, reducing debt, building a strong and committed faculty and staff, and operating with a balanced budget. Though still financially fragile, the College has improved finances and anticipates achieving a U.S. Department of Education financial aid ratio of 1.5 or higher. Work remains to realize enrollment and financial goals, and operations still depend on substantial annual fund raising. The academic program is strong and coherent, and is under faculty review to achieve improved assessment of student outcomes, and to include additional content in mathematics and science.

The NEASC comprehensive evaluation team will present the draft report to the College and then a final report to the NEASC along with a confidential recommendation. The NEASC will take up the report at its spring, 2017 meeting and communicate its decision to the College. The Higher Education Commission should receive a copy of the Team report and the College's response in January or February, 2017, and the NEASC decision on continued accreditation in the spring. This timing will enable the Commission to receive notification of the NEASC's findings prior to its May, 2017 meeting, and Commission members can expect an action item for that agenda that will be informed by the NEASC report and Dr. Gustafson's recommendations.

New England College held a Focused Evaluation visit on October 31, 2016. It was a very successful review and the team found positive responses and outcomes in each of the five areas the College was asked to address, concluding the College "should be proud of the advancements it has made over the

past two years.” The visit included a review of the College’s EdD program in Educational Leadership, which has Higher Education Commission approval until June 30, 2017.

The NEASC team presented its final report to the NEASC Commission, along with the team’s confidential recommendation. The NEASC Commission will take up the report at its spring, 2017 meeting and then communicate its decision to the College. The Higher Education Commission should receive notification of the NEASC decision prior to its May 9, 2017 meeting. As in similar circumstances, Commission members can expect an action item regarding the EdD program for that agenda that will be informed by the NEASC report.

Also, as noted during the prior Commission meeting, the NEASC will continue Daniel Webster College accreditation through August, 2017 to enable students to complete their Daniel Webster College degrees. Finally, no Comprehensive Evaluations are scheduled by the NEASC during 2017.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

The following out-of-state institutions forwarded required annual reports:

- **Antioch University New England** – All Degrees
- **Cornell University** – Executive Boardroom Site portion of the Cornell-Queens Executive Master of Business Administration in Salem, NH
- **Lesley University** – M.Ed., Educational Technology, M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction with Specialization in Integrated Teaching through the Arts – Raymond, NH
- **MCPHS University** – Doctor of Pharmacy, Master of Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- **Northern Essex Community College/Quarrybrook Outdoor Learning Center** – Internships/practicums for the Associate of Science in Respiratory Care and the Associate of Science in Criminal Justice
- **Pratt Institute** – Spring/Summer Intensive Program – Master in Art Therapy or Dance Therapy

Per revised Hedc 406.02, N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, annual and/or other reports shall be reviewed by the Director, who shall report compliance to the Commission. The above reports were received, read, and accepted.

Administrative Approvals:

Administrative approval was granted to the following institutions within states that are not members of the National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) or have elected to not participate through NC-SARA to operate in New Hampshire and offer online degrees that require a practicum/internship/clinical:

American International College (Springfield, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy until June 30, 2018.

Labouré College (Milton, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the Neurodiagnostic Technology Program until June 30, 2018 and the Intraoperative Neuromonitoring Program until June 30, 2019.

Marywood University (Scranton, PA) is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and was approved to offer the Dietetic Internship Distance Program until June 30, 2018.

Mount Wachusett Community College (Gardner, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2019:

- Associate of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology
- Associate of Science in Physical Therapist Assistant
- Associate of Science in Medical Assisting

North Shore Community College (Danvers, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the Associate of Occupational Therapy Assistant, the Practical Nursing Program, and the Physical Therapist Assistant Program until June 30, 2019.

Simmons College (Boston, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the Master of Public Health in Health Equity until June 30, 2019.

University of Massachusetts Amherst (Hadley, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice and the Master of Science in Clinical Nurse Leader until June 30, 2018.

Presently only three states are not members of NC-SARA (Massachusetts, Florida and California). As noted during the prior Commission meeting, the Commission delegates authority to the Director for approval of these out-of-state institution requests. Subsequent acceptance of the Director's Report ratifies the approval to operate in New Hampshire with the stipulated limitations.

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

From July 1, 2016 until January 31, 2017 (FY 2017), 1,101 college/university transcripts and 35 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of \$22,720. The significant increase continues to be attributable to the closure of Mount Washington College (formerly Hesser College) and numerous requests for transcripts.

From July 1, 2015 until January 31, 2016 (FY 2016), 369 college/university transcripts and 32 career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of \$8,020.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- Publication of the "Status of Higher Education in New Hampshire" report. It is now being distributed and is also available on the N.H. Department of Education, Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission web site. Find it [here](#).
- Compiled the UNIQUE Annual Allocation Program (UAAP) and UNIQUE Endowment Allocation Program (UEAP) data regarding funds received and distributed to students at participating institutions.

- NC-SARA complaint coordination. The Division received two complaints regarding NC-SARA member institutions since October. One was resolved and one will be closed shortly.
- Three non-NC-SARA, college-related complaints were received and resolved since October.
- Fulfillment of miscellaneous research requests, including legislator requests and support.
- Completed SHEEO State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) and Grapevine surveys.
- Continued communications with the U.S. Department of Education to enable NH to join the Federal FAFSA Completion Initiative.

Please review “**Director’s Report: Winter 2016-17 Research and News**” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attachment). The top issues this quarter were:

- Cyber Security
- For-Profit Institutions
- Student Debt

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support

Continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on February 15. The surveys to be completed include: Student Financial Aid, Graduation Rates, 200% Graduation Rates, Admissions and Outcome Measures. Steady progress is being made by the institutions.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING

Submitted by James A. Margeson IV

The following schools have received a letter stating that, in accordance with relevant Statutes and Rules, they must be licensed by the Office of Career School Licensing (for the period of October 2016 through January 2017):

Aviation Museum of New Hampshire

- Located in Londonderry, NH
- Letter was sent December 19, 2016.
- School has submitted a request for exemption, which was denied due to the lack of evidence for exemption.
- Letter was sent on January 13, 2017 explaining to the school their request for exemption could not be approved at this time, and the reasons why the school did not meet exemption requirements.

BlueFin Consultant

- Operates out of Massachusetts and instructs classes in New Hampshire
- Letter was sent January 10, 2017.
- The Office of Career School Licensing is currently working with Attorney Kavia M. Goyal, who represents BlueFin Consultant.

Sodexo Dietetic Internships

- Located in New Boston, NH
- Letter sent January 12, 2017
- Sodexo Dietetic Internships still has not replied to the letter.

The following schools received a letter from the Office of Career School Licensing instructing them to cease enrollment:

All Dogs Academy

- Letter was sent January 23, 2017
- School's license expired January 17, 2017 and the school still has not submitted a renewal application.

Laird Institute of Spa Therapy

- Letter was sent January 17, 2017
- School's license expired December 19, 2016, and the school still has not submitted a renewal application.

The following schools received a letter stating they are exempt from being licensed by the Office of Career School Licensing (for the period of October 2016 through January 2017):

Coos County Nursing Hospital

- Letter was sent December 23, 2016

The following schools were issued notices by the Office of Career School Licensing:

New England Academy of Therapeutic Science

- Letter sent December 22, 2016
- Final notice of an incomplete renewal application.
- Fines and fees are in the process of being assessed.

Workforce Training Resources, LLC

- Letter sent December 22, 2016 indicating the submission of an insufficient closure packet.
- Workforce Training Resources, LLC has since resolved the matter.

The following summarizes the status of license applications received by the Office of Career School Licensing:

- 3 licenses issued
- 7 incomplete applications
- 10 waiting for review

Kimberly Kenneally continues to work closely with **Salter School of Nursing & Allied Health** on the matter of their accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), and their plan to seek accreditation through another U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agency. Per the U.S. Department of Education's directive for institutions accredited by ACICS, an initial teach-out plan was submitted to the Office of Career School Licensing.

The School is now seeking accreditation through the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET), and submitted initial documents to ACCET in August, 2016. A full application was submitted in October and ACCET responded on November 25, 2016 with requests for clarification and/or additional information. The final application was submitted January 2017.

ACCET is not currently recognized by the national nursing board, so the School is also working on getting recognized by an entity that is approved by the national nursing board. If ACCET does not gain recognition by the national nursing board as an approved accrediting body, then the School will have to seek accreditation from a different accrediting body in order to stay compliant with the NH Board of Nursing guidelines. The U.S. Department of Education has mandated that all schools that are seeking accreditation through a body that is not full recognized by the governing authorities within their respective states to provide a comprehensive teach-out plan for their programs. Accordingly, the School will provide a complete teach-out plan for their nursing programs no later than Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

The Office of Career School Licensing continues to work in collaboration with the NH Board of Nursing in the review of all programs being offered at **Harmony Health Care Institute, Inc.** On Thursday, January 19, 2017, the Office attended a show cause hearing at the NH Board of Nursing for the Institute to determine if the Board would place Harmony Health Care Institute, Inc. on probation status or remove program approval. This hearing has been continued to Thursday, February 16, 2017.

This is an example of the ongoing effort by the Office of Career School Licensing to work in collaboration with licensing entities throughout the State of New Hampshire to build stronger relationships among the different agencies.

The Office of Career School Licensing hosted a Career School Conference on Friday, October 14, 2016, and all licensed schools were invited to attend. Out of the 71 (14 out-of-state) schools invited, representatives from 13 schools (all in-state) attended. The Office of Career School Licensing hopes to hold this conference annually to help the schools stay current with all laws, regulations, statutes and rules.

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to James A. Margeson IV at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail to James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES

Submitted by James A. Margeson IV

The Veterans Education Services team continues to grow the program, and hopes to continue to do so. Below are some of the activities that were conducted by the Veterans Education Services team from October 2016 through January 2017:

- 101 new program approvals
- 38 programs disapproved or eliminated
- 7 Compliance Visits

The Veterans Education Services currently has one school impacted by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges & Schools (ACICS) loss of U.S. Department of Education recognition to accredit institutions. The school is **Salter School of Nursing & Allied Health**, and the U.S. Veterans Administration has granted the School an 18-month grace period to attain another nationally recognized accreditation. The School has begun the process to attain accreditation through the ACCET.

NHSAA Office figures for the reporting period of February 2016 through July 2016:

- IHLs (Colleges & Universities)

- \$20,533,357 (Chapter 33 & 31 tuition paid to facilities)
- 5057 Veterans reported as enrolled
- 992 Dependents reported as enrolled
 - **1 IHL did not report numbers to the NHSAA Office*
- NCD (Career Schools)
 - \$4,182,047 (Chapter 33 & 31 tuition paid to facilities)
 - 350 Veterans reported as enrolled
 - 18 Dependents reported as enrolled
 - **2 NCDs did not report numbers to the NHSAA Office*

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to James A. Margeson IV at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail to James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov.