

**NH Department of Education  
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission  
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May 9, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY**

As the Legislative process continues, it is unclear if any of the bills identified in the prior report will receive approval. The following lists the latest action by the Legislature:

- HCR 2 Supporting efforts to ensure that students from New Hampshire have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
  
- HB 180 Requiring postsecondary education institutions to compile and submit reports on remedial education courses. **Retained in House Education Committee**
  
- HB 477 Relative to free speech on campuses in the university system and the community college system. **Retained in House Education Committee**
  
- HB 603 Establishing the John and Molly Stark student debt reduction program. **Laid on Table**
  
- HB 604 Establishing the John and Molly Stark workforce opportunity program. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
  
- HB 605 Establishing a scholarship for students pursuing careers in the service of children and the elderly. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
  
- HB 606 Establishing a scholarship fund for health care providers who stay in New Hampshire for 5 years and making an appropriation therefor. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
  
- HB 607 Establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
  
- HB 609 Establishing a children's savings account program and making an appropriation therefor. **Retained in House Education Committee**
  
- HB 641 Relative to high school students participating in New Hampshire's dual and concurrent enrollment program. **Attached to a germane bill and going to full House on May 4<sup>th</sup>**

HB 642 Relative to eligibility to vote and relative to student identification cards. **Inexpedient to Legislate**

HB 647 Establishing education savings accounts for children with disabilities. **Laid on Table**

SB 41 Establishing a fund to forgive certain educational debt and making an appropriation therefor. **Laid on Table**

SB 228 Establishing the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP). **Laid on Table**

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

### **REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS**

In April, the Director attended the New England Board of Education (NEBHE) meeting. A notable announcement was the creation of the Commission on Higher Education and Employability, chaired by Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo. The purpose of the Commission is “develop an action agenda, policy recommendations, strategies and next steps to align institutions, policymakers and industry to increase the career readiness of New England colleges and universities – and facilitate their successful transitions to work and sustained contributions to the well-being and competitiveness of the region.” New Hampshire’s representatives on the Commission are Chancellors Ross Gittell and Todd Leach, SNHU President Paul LeBlanc, House Education Chair Rick Ladd, and Workforce Accelerator 2025 Director Sara Colson (WA 2025 is the partnership sponsored by the BIA and NHCF, among others). The Commission met for the first time recently and will make its report prior to the end of the calendar year.

### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER**

Director MacKay’s appointment technically ended in August, 2016, and the selection of a new Director was deferred until after the elections. The Commission Executive Committee is serving as the search committee, and Chair Leach will provide a status report during the Commission meeting.

Kimberley Kenneally, Program Specialist I for the Office of Career School Licensing, retired as of March 31, 2017. She has relocated to Georgia and we wish her the best.

### **COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY**

#### **In-State Colleges and Universities:**

**Franklin Pierce University** – Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approval expires June 30, 2017 (CAPTE had previously extended the date from June, 2016 to allow for the review this year). The Self-Study Report submitted to CAPTE in November, 2016, was reviewed by this office, but the final decision has not been received. Higher Education Commission approval to offer the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree was granted without a terminal date, but if CAPTE accreditation is not continued for any reason, the Commission may wish to re-visit that approval.

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

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is continuing **Daniel Webster College's** accreditation for the sole purpose of allowing current students who complete their degree requirements by August 31, 2017 to receive a Daniel Webster College degree. The Higher Education Commission approval to continue operations included the same provision and was contingent upon continuing accreditation by the NEASC.

**The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts** – A Comprehensive Evaluation was conducted November 13-16, 2016 with Dr. Gustafson attending as the Commission observer. The results from the NEASC meeting of March 2-3, 2017 have not been received. The absence of a report does not generate a requirement to take any action as the College has degree-granting approval without a terminal date, but if NEASC has taken negative action, then the Commission may wish to re-visit that approval.

**Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:**

The **MCPHS University** informed the Commission that effective April 18, 2017, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) Program removed the probation they placed on the Manchester/Worcester sites and returned the University to full Accreditation-Continued status. This change in status from probation to full accreditation represents the University's full compliance with Standard E1.09d regarding enrollment limits. The ARC-PA will conduct a comprehensive site visit on May 25-26, 2017 and the results of the visit and any change in accreditation status will be conveyed to the Commission. The accreditation expiration date is September, 2017, and the ARC-PA will make a determination at that time on continuing approval.

***Administrative Approvals:***

Administrative approval is granted to 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. Since only Massachusetts, Florida and California have not joined SARA, there are a relatively small number of such institutions, and primarily from MA.

The only school seeking approval since the last report is **Boston University** (Boston, MA), accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology until June 30, 2019.

**CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS**

From July 1, 2016 until April 30, 2017 (FY 2017), **1,929** college/university transcripts and **52** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$39,620**. During the same period in the prior year, a total of 611 transcript requests were processed (versus 1,981 currently).

The significant increase continues to be attributable to the closure of Mount Washington College (formerly Hesser College) and numerous requests for transcripts. It is expected this rate increase will continue and possibly even accelerate due to the addition of Daniel Webster College transcripts after the office takes possession of the documents in May, 2017.

## **RESEARCH AND STUDIES**

**Submitted by Jan Fiderio**

Research and Studies related activities this quarter include:

- Continued communications with the U.S. Department of Education and NH Department of Education (DOE) staff to enable NH to join the Federal FAFSA Completion Initiative. Currently, the firewall-port access is being resolved among DoIT, DOE, and the Federal Gateway. Successful completion will allow us to access the FASFA data. It is hoped that a pilot program with three high schools can be conducted this spring, with the NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation's Center for College Planning providing the FAFSA technical assistance.
- Continued complaint response and coordination. The Division received two complaints regarding the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) member institutions since January, and both have been resolved and closed. Since January, three non-SARA, college-related complaints were received and resolved.
- Fulfilled miscellaneous research requests, including legislator requests and support.
- Attended New England Secondary School Consortium Spring data team meeting and reviewed draft changes to procedural guidebook report.
- Continued support for PS-SASID Phase II, education data project.
- Continued support for the Multistate Longitudinal Data Exchange. (Jan will attend the update meeting on May 12.)
- Completed revision of SHEEO State Higher Education Finance (SHEF) survey and completed the annual NASSGAP survey.

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) related activities this quarter include:

- Attended the 2017 IPEDS Coordinator Workshop and State Data Conference training on May 1-3 in Washington, D.C. in the role as the State of New Hampshire's official IPEDS Coordinator
- Continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The most recent IPEDS collection cycle closed on April 12, 2017 for Keyholders, and April 26 for Coordinators. The surveys completed included: Fall Enrollment, Finance, Human Resources, and Academic Libraries. All institutions completed the surveys by the second deadline.

Please review "**Director's Report: Spring 2017 Research and News**" for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attachment). The top issues this quarter were:

- Student Debt
- Dual Enrollment
- Micro Masters and Alternative Credentials

## **OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING**

**Submitted by James A. Margeson IV**

Kimberly Kenneally's retirement created a vacancy in the Office of Career School Licensing (OCSL). The position was initially posted internally, and now is posted externally through Friday, May 5, 2017. The OCSL has conducted several interviews and will continue to do so until the position is filled. James A. Margeson IV, Administrator for Veteran's Education Services - NH SAA and the Office of Career School Licensing, will assume all OCSL responsibilities until the vacancy is filled.

The following schools received a letter stating they are exempt from being licensed by the OCSL:

**Aviation Museum of New Hampshire**

- Aviation Museum of New Hampshire was granted exemption of licensure on February 1, 2017.

**BlueFin Consultant**

- BlueFin Consultant was granted exemption of licensure on April 11, 2017.

**Total Air Supply**

- Total Air Supply was granted exemption of licensure on April 27, 2017.

The following schools had substantive contact with the office or were issued notices by the OCSL:

**All Dogs Academy**

- Since the last report, the Academy has submitted a partial license renewal packet. The OCSL is working with the school to complete the renewal application.

**New England Academy of Therapeutic Science**

- The Academy's license expired August 12, 2016 and the school still has not submitted a complete License Renewal Application.
- A letter was sent December 22, 2016 indicating it was the final notice of an incomplete renewal application. This letter stated that the school must provide all documentation and information for renewal within 15 days of receipt of the letter or a teach-out plan must be provided.
- As of April 28, 2017, the OCSL has made multiple attempts to contact the New England Academy of Therapeutic Science, but the school is not responding to any communications.
- Fines and fees are currently being assessed, but cannot be finalized until the OCSL receives the complete license renewal packet or a teach-out plan.

**Laird Institute of Spa Therapy**

- School's license expired December 19, 2016, and the school still has not submitted a complete License Renewal Application.
- On January 17, 2017 an "Incomplete Renewal Application/Cease and Desist Enrollment Letter was sent to Laird Institute of Spa Therapy. This letter stated that the school must provide all documentation and information for renewal within 15 days of receipt of the letter or a teach-out plan must be provided.
- Laird Institute of Spa Therapy has called and emailed the OCSL since the January 17, 2017 letter was sent. During these communications, each time the school has stated that they will have the remaining items to the OCSL. As of April 28, 2017, these items still have not been received by the OCSL.
- Fines and fees are currently being assessed, but cannot be finalized until the OCSL receives the complete license renewal packet or a teach-out plan.

**Sodexo Dietetic Internships**

- On April 11, 2017, Sodexo was issued a letter denying their request for exemption.
- As of April 28, 2017, Sodexho has not responded to the April 11, 2017 letter.

### **Workforce Training Resources, LLC**

- A letter was sent December 22, 2016 indicating the submission of an insufficient closure packet.
- As of April 28, 2017, Workforce Training Resources, LLC has not responded to the letter.

The following summarizes the status of license applications received by the OCSL:

- 15 licenses issued
- 4 incomplete applications
- 3 waiting for review

The OCSL continues to work 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 the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET).

The OCSL hosted a Career School Administrative Rules Meeting on Friday, April 21, 2017. This meeting was the first of a work group to develop proposed changes to the N.H. Code of Administrative Rules, Hedc 300, for consideration by the Higher Education Commission at the October 10, 2017 Commission meeting. This first meeting included seven career schools, a representative from the New Hampshire Department of Justice, a representative from the New Hampshire Department of Education, and James A. Margeson IV.

The next workgroup meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2017. A few items the group discussed at the first meeting on April 21, 2017 were:

- Adding a section on how investigations are handled by the OCSL.
- Adding a section on how appeals are handled.
- Clarifying the section in Hedc 300 on Record Retention.
- Clarifying the section in Hedc 300 on the Student List.
- Clarifying the section in Hedc 300 on Financials.
- Clarifying the section in Hedc 300 on OCSL's authority to physically remove student records from a school and hold in the OCSL.
- Clarifying the section in Hedc 300 on Student Complaints by adding a section stating that a student's written complaint is sufficient documentation for release of that specific student's records to the OCSL.
- Considering whether there should be a Statute of Limitation for the period when a student can file a complaint against a school.

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](mailto:James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov)

### **VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES**

**Submitted by James A. Margeson IV**

The Veterans Education Services (VES) team continues to expand the educational opportunities for veterans and their dependents, and is committed to continuing to do so. Below are some of the activities conducted by the team from February 2017 through April 2017:

- 139 new program approvals

- 178 programs disapproved or eliminated
- 3 Compliance Visits

One or both members of the VES team participated in the following activities during the period from February 2017 through April 2017:

- NASAA Mid-Winter Conference
- New Hampshire Military Leadership Team
- New Hampshire SCO Conference and Training Planning Team
- NASAA Conference Calls
- VA Conference Calls
- VA Webinars

NHSAA Office figures for the reporting period of August 2016 through January 2017:

- IHLs (Colleges & Universities)
  - \$25,076,392 (Chapter 33 & 31 tuition paid to facilities)
  - 6,851 Veterans reported as enrolled
  - 1,095 Dependents reported as enrolled
- NCD (Career Schools)
  - \$4,885,866 (Chapter 33 & 31 tuition paid to facilities)
  - 357 Veterans reported as enrolled
  - 10 Dependents reported as enrolled

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](mailto:James.MargesonIV@doe.nh.gov).