

Item No. 4

NH Department of Education
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education
Higher Education Commission

May 2021: Commission Meeting
Director's Report

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

No attendance at out-of-state meetings.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

N/A

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

Signum University:

House Bill, HB513 granting Signum University degree granting authority was passed by the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor's Office for signature. The University is preparing its response to the Distance Education Accreditation Commission (DEAC) regarding additional information on several items. A DEAC site visit is anticipated in the fall of 2021. The NH Commission will have an observer at the site visit.

New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) Activity:

American University of Madaba in Jordan (AUM):

Dr. Carol Anderson conducted a NECHE staff virtual visit to AUM on March 22-26, 2021. This was a visit to validate the NECHE requirements for Affiliation. Dr. Anderson filed a positive report addressing each of the 24 required components for Affiliation. AUM has provided the Commission with a copy of Dr. Anderson's report. NECHE has now scheduled the formal Eligibility on-site (virtual) visit by Dr. Anderson and another evaluator for October, 2021.

In preparation for the Eligibility visit in October 2021, the following items were recommended for consideration:

- Provide written confirmation from the Sponsor regarding its commitment to fund operating deficits
- Include an update on the presidential search
- Ensure information on AUM's website is accurate
- Provide an update on the impact of the COVID-19 on AUM (e.g., enrollment and finances)
- Clarify the 40-credit hour General Education program across the curriculum
- Update status of the launching of the new Master's program, as well as plans to offer additional master's programs

As AUM prepares its self-study for Candidacy, attention will be given to:

- Developing, implementing, and evaluating the effectiveness of its institutional plans, with attention to strategic, financial, and enrollment plans;
- Developing, implementing, and evaluating the effectiveness of comprehensive assessment plans to evaluate student learning outcomes of program majors as well as the General Education program at the course, program, and institutional levels;
- Maintaining financial stability with attention to achieving enrollment and financial goals;
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the leadership transition.

Colby Sawyer College:

NECHE conducted a review of the College's 5th Year Interim Report in late October, 2020. The College is awaiting a letter from NECHE regarding the Commission's decision regarding the Report and will share that correspondence with the NH Commission when it is received.

Hellenic American University:

The NECHE Commission voted to approve the University's Substantive Change request for establishing its new address in Nashua, NH. The Commission has received a copy of the NECHE Commission letter which requires the University to file a progress report on enrollment and budget for the Nashua instructional site by November 1, 2021. The University will file the normal 5th Year Interim Report to NECHE in the fall of 2022.

Magdalen College:

NECHE conducted a virtual on-site review of the College's 5th Year Interim Report on October 18-21, 2020. Dr. Richard A. Gustafson observed for the NH Commission. The focus was on the Standards of Organization & Governance, Enrollment, and Institutional Resources. The NECHE Commission issued its decision in a letter on April 16, 2021. The Commission noted concerns that the College may no longer meet the Standards on Planning & Evaluation, Organization & Governance, and Institutional Resources. The College will have the opportunity to show cause at the Commission's September, 2021 meeting, and is required to submit a show cause report by August 30, 2021. The report is to address matters of enrollment, finances, Board reconstitution, and the status of a presidential search, among other things.

New England College (NEC):

NECHE conducted a virtual on-site visit in late October, 2020 to review (1) the merger with the New Hampshire Institute of Art (NHIA), and the associated BFA program, and (2) the status of the RN to BSN program in collaboration with the Dallas, TX community colleges. The review of both matters went well, but NECHE has not issued its final letter as in-person site visits to Henniker and Manchester, NH, along with a visit to Dallas, TX have not been completed. Once these visits are complete, the final NECHE correspondence will be shared with the NH Commission.

Saint Anselm College:

NECHE conducted a focused visit in June, 2020 regarding matters of institutional governance. In February 2021, the Commission accepted the reports submitted by the visiting team and by the College. The Commission established a Spring 2022 evaluation to assess continued attention to matters of governance and to assess the implementation of the M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice. The 5th Year Interim Report scheduled for the Spring of 2024 was also confirmed.

Upper Valley Educators Institute (UVEI):

The NH Higher Education Commission should have formal notification of NECHE's decision in April or May 2021.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

American University of Madaba in Jordan (AUM):

The American University of Madaba in Jordan submitted its annual report to the Commission on February 23, 2021. The report, covering the 2020 calendar year, was comprehensive with several appendices. Much of the information was common to that filed with NECHE as part of the institution's Eligibility Report. NECHE conducted a staff virtual eligibility site visit on March 22-26, 2021, which is referenced elsewhere in this report.

President Nabil Ayoub completed his term of office on February 4, 2021, and was succeeded by Interim President Professor Naif Haddad. A search is underway for a president to serve the usual 4-year term.

Instruction shifted to online learning to conform to Covid-19 guidelines. New programs in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, and a master's degree in Risk Management were initiated, with the MS in Risk Management enrollments starting in the spring of 2021. Enrollments continue somewhat downward trends with 375 new students in the fall of 2019, and 343 in 2020. Total fall 2020 enrollment was 1450. The number of graduates has declined from 380 in 2017 to 264 in 2020. Marketing efforts using traditional, online, and social media approaches are in place. The report addressed initiatives in strategic planning, student and faculty governance, assessment, placement of graduates, technology, and library resources. A new residence hall for female students has been completed, and planned construction of a new library/learning center awaits funding. The \$9,525,000 operating budget is balanced, and includes \$417,000 for capital expenses.

Walden University (NY): Change in Ownership

Walden University has notified the Commission of a planned change of ownership as required under Hedc 406.05. Walden University owner Laureate Education, Inc. has entered into an agreement to sell Walden to Adtalem Global Education, Inc. for \$1.480B. Both boards have approved the transaction. Walden corporate offices are in the State of Minnesota, which does not require approval of such transfers. However, the planned sale is under review by the US Department of Education and Walden's regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Walden anticipates approval by July 1, 2021, and to complete the transaction by December 31, 2021. The University filed a cover letter and six appendices in compliance with Hedc 406.05. The plan calls for Walden to remain a separately accredited institution as a wholly owned subsidiary of Adtalem without a change of mission or institutional leadership. Walden has assets of \$730M, and in calendar year 2019 reported net revenue of \$600M, and an after tax profit of \$145M. The University has been informed that the NH Commission requires receipt of the USDOE and HLC approval letters and confirmation of the final transaction. Walden is approved to offer its online programs in the State of New Hampshire through June 30, 2022.

Administrative Approvals for Online Programs: *Administrative approval is granted to institutions within states that are not members of the 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.*

Northcentral University (CA):

Northcentral University is an online institution founded in 1996 and based in San Diego, CA. It was initially a for-profit institution, but in 2019 became an affiliate of the not-for-profit National University System, based in Scottsdale, AZ. The City University of Seattle is also a member of the System.

Northcentral University is accredited by the Western Association of Senior Schools and Colleges (WASC). Its business programs are accredited by ACBSP, and its marriage and family programs by the American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy (COAMFTE). The University offers degree programs at the

bachelor, master, and doctoral levels in business, education, psychology, technical management, and marriage and family therapy. Programs are delivered completely online, require no residency, and use a unique one-on-one teaching format, which offers weekly starts for students. The University is approved to offer Title IV federal financial aid. Faculty are appropriately experienced and qualified, and curricular structures and content have met accreditation standards.

The following programs have been administratively approved through June 30, 2023.

Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (EdD-EdL)
Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration (PHD-BA)
Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science (PhD-CS)
Doctor of Philosophy in Education (PhD-Ed)
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (PhD-PSY)
Master of Education in Educational Leadership (MEd-EdL)
Master of Science in Child and Adolescent Developmental Psychology (MSPSYCAD)
Master of Science in Cybersecurity (MSCY)
Master of Science in Industrial/Organizational Psychology (MSPSYIO)
Post-Masters Certificate in Education
Post-Masters Certificate in Psychology

Post-Master's Certificates:

International Colleges and Universities:

CLOSED SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

From July 1, 2020 until September 30, 2020 (FY 2021), 790 college/university transcripts and 42 career school transcripts were processed. During the same period in the prior year (FY 2020), a total of 619 college/university transcripts and 25 career school transcripts were processed.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the transcript request fee is waived for 12 months from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Please see attached document.

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Program Support

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

- Attended (via Zoom) the 2021 IPEDS Coordinator Workshop and State Data Conference training on April 27-29 as the State of New Hampshire's official IPEDS Coordinator.
- The Spring IPEDS survey deadlines – April 7 for all NH nonprofit colleges and career schools and April 21 for all NH public 4-year and 2-year institutions were met by all. The surveys completed included: Fall Enrollment, Finance, Human Resources, and Academic Libraries. All institutions completed the surveys by the second deadline.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOLS LICENSING (OCSL)

Submitted by Katelyn Komisarek

Correspondence between the Office of Career School Licensing and career schools has improved and most correspondence is virtual through online meetings, phone calls and email. We are beginning to conduct site visits in person once again. Some schools have returned to in-person learning and a few others remain online or hybrid learning models. In order to assist NH career schools in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic the NH DOE has waived certain career school related fees effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. To date, a total of \$162,420 in fees have been waived for new and existing career school. This fall the OCSL will also seek to review the revised statutes, forms, and guidelines now that most have been in effect for two years with provided feedback from existing career schools. Below are some of the other activities that were conducted by the OCSL team since the last Commission meeting in February 2021.

Completed site visits to the following schools:

Site visits have been completed virtually through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Renewed the licenses of the following schools:

- The Prelude Institute
- Unique System Skills
- Sig Sauer Academy
- NBI, Inc.
- CAD Technical
- EPTAC Corporation
- CalCampus
- Radiation Safety and Control Services
- Cross Cultural Communication
- New Hampshire Institute for Therapeutic Arts
- Clinical Career Training
- Boston Bartenders School of America
- Animal Behavior College
- North Eastern Institute of Whole Health
- FLIR Infrared Training Center
- Hyslop & Associates
- Holistic Academy of Natural Disciplines
- John Mason Institute

Currently reviewing license renewal/annual filing applications for the following schools:

- TENET
- CertStaffix Training
- Birthwise Midwifery
- The Whole Pet Grooming Academy
- HRB Tax Group

New School Applications:

- YogaLife Institute (approved)
- Strength and Soul Yoga and Fitness (approved)
- Delta Gardens (approved)
- East Coast Line School (Lineman Pre-Apprenticeship) (Pending)
- Medical Gas Credentialing (pending)
- FireMed, LLC (pending)

Processing/Completed the closure of the following schools:

- Thomas Institute of Hypnotherapy (pending)

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Katelyn Komisarek at (603) 271-6443 or by e-mail at Katelyn.N.Komisarek@doe.nh.gov

VETERANS EDUCATION SERVICES (VES)

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Newman

Veterans Education Services (VES) is New Hampshire's State Approving Agency that approves all facilities and programs that are subject to funding under the GI Bill®. This includes institutions of higher learning, high schools, non-college degree programs, and certificates, on-the-job training and apprenticeships. This includes both traditional college study and workforce development programs. Currently, there are approximately 7200 veterans and dependents in New Hampshire involved in various programs and courses of study subject to the GI Bill®.

The current circumstances of the pandemic have restricted in-person visits and outreach as institutions shift modalities from in-person training to distance learning. We have adapted by conducting remote visits within VA guidelines.

Below are some of the activities the VES team accomplished from October 1, 2020, through May 1, 2021:

- Worked with New Hampshire Military Leadership Team and Justice-Involved Task Force to work to improve the status of statewide veterans programs, initiatives, and dispersal of funds;
- Coordinating with VA and NH Veterans Affairs to conduct a training in June, 2021 for School certifying Officials from Institutions of Higher Learning ("IHL", 2- and 4- year institutions) and Non College Degree ("NCD", trade/career schools)
- Conducted compliance survey visits to 1 facility: New England School of Barbering;
- Conducted 1 new support site visit to Cote Electric, Inc., Manchester, NH;
- Provided 387 program approvals and withdrawals at the request of school certifying officials.

Students Receiving VA Educational Benefits within New Hampshire:

IHLs (Institutions of Higher Learning):

- Antioch University of New England: 13
- Colby-Sawyer College: 11
- Dartmouth College: 70
- Tuck School: 25
- Geisel School: 6
- Franklin Pierce University (all campuses): 26
- Granite State College (all campuses): 242
- Great Bay Community College (both campuses): 86
- Keene State College: 63
- Lakes Region Community College: 34
- Manchester Community College: 118
- Manchester School of Technology: 1
- Magdalen College (formerly Northeast Catholic College): 3

- MCPHS University (formerly Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences): 10
- Nashua Community College: 54
- New England College: 103
- NHTI – Concord’s Community College: 109
- Plymouth State University: 110
- River Valley Community College: 28
- Rivier University: 35
- Saint Anselm College: 24
- St. Joseph School of Nursing: 3
- Southern New Hampshire University (all campuses and online): 9,403
- Thomas More College of Liberal Arts: 1
- UNH (all campuses): 470
- White Mountains Community College: 41

NCDs (Non-College Degree schools):

- American School of Nursing and Medical Careers (ex-Salter): 8
- Commercial Driving School: 8
- Continental Academie of Hair Design: 1
- Dover School of Technology: 1
- Empire Beauty School (all campuses): 4
- Granite State Emergency Medical Services: 3
- Heavy Construction Academy: 233
- Michaels School of Hair Design: 2
- NH EMS Institute: 8
- NH School of Barbering: 6
- NH Department of Safety - Fire Standards and Training: 4
- New Hampshire Police Standards and Training: 27
- NH School of Mechanical Trades: 9
- Paul Mitchell: 3
- SOLO/Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities: 16
- Whole Pet Grooming Academy: 0

Apprenticeships:

- All apprenticeships: 26

On the Job Training:

- All OJTs: 40

Flight Schools:

- All Flight Schools: 2

Total: 7,170

Note: This information is based on the Veterans Benefits Administration Facilities Count Report for New Hampshire, November 2019. Current numbers may vary.

Please direct any questions regarding these activities to Jeffrey Newman at (603) 271-8508 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.Newman@doe.nh.gov.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

The Department is tracking numerous bills with potential implications for the postsecondary education community.

Number	Bill	Status
HB 255	Relative to limited liability for IHEs and businesses	Retained
HB 319	Relative to students of CCSNH/USNH passing the US Citizenship Civics test.	Re-referred
SB 19	Relative to degree granting authority of Signum University.	In Senate Ed
HB 513	Relative to degree granting authority of Signum University & the HEC.	Awaiting Gov. Signature
SB 44	Relative to establishing the NH Workforce Pathway program and Commission.	In House Ed
SB 147	Omnibus bill- FASFA requirement for HS seniors	In Senate Ed
SB 148	Omnibus bill- Relative to Private Postsecondary Career Schools	In Senate Ed

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

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