

**NH Department of Education
Division of Higher Education • Higher Education Commission
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October 11, 2016

MEMORANDUM

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

There may be several bills submitted during the upcoming session that would impact postsecondary education, but as of now there are no LSRs available for public review and analysis. The February 7, 2017 Director's Report will identify bills with potential substantive impact on postsecondary education.

REPORT OF OUT-OF-STATE MEETINGS

In the role of Director, there was out-of-state travel to confer with the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) on options surrounding the transition of Daniel Webster College and attendance at two Children's Savings Account Consortium meetings at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston (the Director is an ex-officio member of the Children's Savings Account Consortium). The Director is also an ex-officio delegate to the New England Board of Higher Education, and as such attended two meetings. Though not out-of-state travel, the Director participated electronically in a hearing by a Special Commission in Massachusetts established to explore whether the state should join the 43 states now participating in the National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) program. A decision is expected by October 29, 2016.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT/OFFICE ISSUES/OTHER

There was no change in staffing, but James Margeson did take FMLA time to be with his new son, Declan. All in the family are doing well!

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ACTIVITY

In-State Colleges and Universities:

Franklin Pierce University notified the Division that the teach out for the Doctor of Arts in Leadership Studies ended December 31, 2015 and the last of the students completed their requirements for graduation in December 2015 and walked in the May 14, 2016 Commencement.

Franklin Pierce University forwarded the Division its report from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Accreditation was extended until June 30, 2017.

Hellenic American University had a focused visit conducted by Dr. Richard Gustafson and Dr. Robert Henry in early October. The purpose of the visit was to confirm implementation of the new engineering program as approved by the Commission and follow-up on issues cited during prior communications. The results of that review will be presented to the Commission in February.

New England College forwarded the Division its response from the NEASC to its Annual Report on Finance and Enrollment. The NEASC accepted the report at its March 4, 2016 meeting.

St. Joseph School of Nursing forwarded the Division a copy of a report to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and a letter acknowledging receipt that it will close its East Swanzey instructional site due to the program not receiving sufficient, qualified applicants for the Associate of Science in Nursing.

Upper Valley Graduate School of Education will be terminating its work to be accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). In September, the US Department of Education stripped ACICS of its accrediting authority and as a result, ACICS accreditation no longer enables students in those schools to be eligible for federal financial aid. The Upper Valley Graduate School of Education is now vigorously pursuing accreditation by a nationally recognized body by June 30, 2018, when degree-granting approval from the Higher Education Commission expires.

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

As noted in the minutes of the Commission's Emergency Executive Committee meeting of September 13, 2016 (attachment), the Higher Education Commission worked with NEASC-CIHE President Barbara Brittingham in securing approval for a plan to transition Daniel Webster College (DWC) programs to Southern New Hampshire University. A brief summary of the situation and resolution follows.

Since 2009, DWC has been owned by ITT Education Services, a for profit company. In September, ITT abruptly closed its other schools because the US Department of Education had terminated access to student federal financial aid and required substantial sums to be set aside to cover potential closure costs. DWC was the only educational institution owned by ITT that was separately accredited (by the NEASC), and permitted DWC to continue to award federal student aid. With ITT on the verge of bankruptcy -- a declaration that would have caused immediate loss of accreditation and, therefore, access to federal financial aid -- immediate action was required to provide a transition plan for current DWC students, faculty and staff. Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) provided such a plan that was accepted by DWC and ITT, and approved by the NEASC, the Higher Education Commission, and the US Department of Education. This plan enables students close to graduation to complete their programs on the Nashua campus this year and for all other students to have the opportunity to transition to SNHU in their same academic programs. Students are not required to transition to SNHU, and may elect to transfer to other institutions.

Upcoming NEASC Activity:

- **The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts** has a Comprehensive Evaluation November 13-16, 2016 with Dr. Richard Gustafson serving as the Commission observer.

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities:

MCPHS University notified the Division that the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) voted to grant Candidacy Status for its Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. A full Report of the Self-Study will be submitted to the ACOTE on July 3, 2017.

MCPHS University submitted its report from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education for its Doctor of Pharmacy program. Accreditation was extended until June 30, 2024, with a written interim report due no later than April 1, 2018.

Springfield College notified the Division that its Manchester campus will close at the end of the Fall Term, December 2016 in an effort to consolidate resources. The Division received the Teach-Out Plan and found it acceptable. The main campus in Massachusetts will handle transcripts for former students.

Administrative Approvals:

Administrative approval was granted to the following institutions from non-National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) states 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 Master of Science in Occupational Therapy until June 30, 2018.

Appalachian State University (Boone, NC) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and was approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science until June 30, 2018.

Boston University (Boston, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- Master of Social Work
- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
- Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Doctorate
- Doctor of Physical Therapy

California State University, Northridge (Northridge, CA) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- Master of Science in Communicative Disorders
- Master of Social Work
- Master of Public Health

Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, PA) is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- RN-BSN
- MSN - Family Nurse Practitioner
- MSN - Forensic Nursing

- MSN - Nursing Education and Faculty Role
- Post-Master's Certificate – Family (Individual Across the Lifespan) Nurse Practitioner
- Post-Master's Certificate - Forensic Nursing
- Post-Master's Certificate – Nursing Education and Faculty Role
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Fisher College (Boston, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the Associate of Science in Health Information Technology and the Bachelor of Science in Management until June 30, 2018.

Georgetown University (Washington, DC) is accredited by the Middle State Commission on Higher Education, and was approved to offer the Master of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2018.

Herzing University (Menomonee Falls, WI) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- A.S. in Health Information Management
- A.S. in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist
- A.S. in Medical Assisting Services
- A.S. in Medical Office Administration
- B.S. in Health Information Management
- B.S. in Nursing (RN-BSN) Online
- Diploma in Insurance Billing and Coding Specialist
- Diploma in Medical Assisting Services
- Diploma in Medical Office Administration
- M.S. in Nursing with a Concentration in Family Nurse Practitioner
- M.S. in Nursing with a Concentration in Nursing Education

Marquette University (Milwaukee, WI) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and was approved to offer the Physician Assistant Studies Program until June 30, 2018.

Northeastern University (Boston, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- B.S. – Nursing
- M.S. – Nursing
- M.S. – Direct Entry Nursing
- M.S. – Nursing Anesthesia
- M.S./Master of Business Administration – Nursing Administration
- M.S. – Physician Assistant
- M.S. – Applied Behavior Analysis
- M.S. – College Student Development & Counseling
- M.S. – Counseling Psychology
- M.S. School Psychology
- M.S. – Speech Language Pathology
- Doctorate of Philosophy – Counseling Psychology
- Doctorate of Philosophy – School Psychology

- Doctorate of Philosophy – Audiology
- Doctorate of Pharmacy
- Doctorate of Physical Therapy – Entry Level Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Doctorate of Philosophy – Nursing
- Doctorate of Nursing Practice - Nursing

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY) is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and was approved to offer the Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering to employees of Sturm Ruger & Company at their manufacturing facility in Newport, NH until December 31, 2018.

Simmons College (Boston, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the Master of Science in Behavior Analysis and Registered Nurse to Master of Science in Nursing (RN to MSN) until June 30, 2018.

South University (Pittsburgh, PA) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- Doctor of Pharmacy
- Master of Science in Physician Assistant
- Master of Medical Science in Anesthesia Science

University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Master of Science in Social Work
- Bachelor of Science in Communication
- Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Learning
- Master of Science in Human Resources and Organization Development
- Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration

University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the Master of Science in Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner until June 30, 2018.

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (North Dartmouth, MA) is accredited by the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2018.

University of St. Augustine (St. Augustine, FL) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges, and was approved to offer the Master of Science in Nursing until June 30, 2018.

Walden University (Minneapolis, MN) is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, and was approved to offer the following degrees until June 30, 2018:

- M.S. in Clinical Psychology
- M.S. in Forensic Psychology
- M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- M.S. in School Counseling

- M.S. in Addiction Counseling
- M.S. in Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling
- Master of Social Work
- Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision
- Doctor of Nurse Practice
- M.S. in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner)
- M.S. in Nursing (Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner)
- M.S. in Nursing (Nursing Education)
- M.S. in Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner)
- M.S. in Nursing (Leadership and Management)
- M.S. in Nursing (Nursing Informatics)
- M.S. in Nursing (Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner)
- Master of Public Health
- M.S. in Education (Educational Leadership and Administration – Principal Preparation)
- Ed.S. in Educational Leadership and Administration (Principal Preparation Program)
- Master of Arts in Teaching (Special Education K-21)
- M.S. in Education (Specialization in Reading and Literacy with a Reading K-12 Endorsement)

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

For the first three months of FY 2017, **588** college/university transcripts and **11** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$11,980**. The large increase over the prior year is primarily attributable to the closure of Hesser College/Mount Washington College, and numerous requests for transcripts.

For the first three months of FY 2016, **194** college/university transcripts and **17** career school transcripts were processed, generating a total of **\$4,220**.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Research and Studies related activities completed this quarter include:

- NC-SARA complaint coordination. The Division has received seven complaints regarding the NC-SARA member institutions since the end of March. Five have been resolved and recorded on the NC-SARA website. Two are currently being researched and will be closed shortly.
- A new on-line, data-base supported Complaint Form. This new Complaint Form, available on the Division’s webpages, helps route and organize complaints that come in for any of the Division’s groups including: colleges and universities, NC-SARA institutions, career schools, and veteran’s educational programs.
- Fulfillment of miscellaneous research requests including legislator requests and 65 by 25 initiative support.
- Continued assistance, meetings, and communications with the U.S. Department of Education to enable NH to join the Federal FAFSA Completion Initiative.

- Communication with all institution presidents who receive UNIQUE Annual Allocation Program (UAAP) and UNIQUE Endowment Allocation Program (UEAP) monies in preparation for the report of funds received and distributed.
- Continued compilation of data to be used in an updated “Status of Higher Education in New Hampshire” report.

Please review “**Director’s Report: Fall 2016 Research and News**” for a recap of newsworthy articles and reports (attachment).

Top issues this quarter:

- ITT Technical Institute and Daniel Webster College
- Community Colleges
- Student Debt
- For-Profit Colleges

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) PROGRAM SUPPORT

Submitted by Jan Fiderio

Continued support for all NH institutions that submit IPEDS data. The current IPEDS collection cycle closes on October 19. The surveys to be completed include: Institutional Characteristics, Completions, 12-month Enrollment. Steady progress is being made by the institutions.

OFFICE OF CAREER SCHOOL LICENSING

Submitted by James A. Margeson IV

The following schools continue to communicate with the Office of Career School Licensing in the process to close operations in New Hampshire:

- EMGC, Inc.
- Vital Kneads
- New England Institute of Canine Cosmetology
- Novah Insight
- Jan Waldo Grooming Boutique

Kimberly Kenneally is working 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 US Department of Education recognized accrediting agency.

The Office of Career School Licensing is working in collaboration with the New Hampshire Board of Nursing in the review of all programs being offered at Harmony Health Care Institute, Inc. This is consistent with broader efforts to promote collaboration among all licensing agencies throughout the State of New Hampshire.

The Office of Career School Licensing will be hosting a Career School Conference at the Red Cross in Concord, NH, on Friday, October 14, 2016.

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 May 2016 through September 2016.

- 148 program approvals
- 149 programs disapproved or eliminated
- 6 Compliance Visits
- Continue to work in collaboration with the US Department of Labor
- Continue to work in collaboration with the NH Department of Labor
- Continue to work in collaboration with the US Veterans Administration
- Continue to work in collaboration with other state and federal agencies and groups

Veterans Education Services currently has two schools that are impacted by the ACICS losing their US Department of Education recognized authority to accredit institutions. The two schools are Upper Valley Graduate School of Education and Salter School of Nursing & Allied Health. The US Veterans Administration has granted both schools an eighteen month grace period to attain another nationally recognized accreditation.

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.