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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Educator Support and Higher Education
Higher Education Commission
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A meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at 25 Hall Steet, Concord, NH 03301, Granite State College Building, Event Center. The following members were present:

Donald Birx - Chair
Sr. Paula Marie Buley, Vice Chair
Michele Perkins
Frank Edelblut, Commissioner
Cathy Provencher
Joseph A. Favazza
Susan D. Stuebner
Melinda Treadwell
Charles Lloyd - (virtual)
Michael J. Apfelberg
Mark J. Laliberte

Steve Appleby
Richard (Dick) Gustafson
Whitney Vaillancourt
Laura Stoneking
Jeffrey Newman
Amy Martel
Pat Moquin

The following members were not present:

James Dean
Mark Rubenstein
Shawn M. Fitzgerald
Alfred Williams IV
Kevin M. O'Shea

1. Chair Birx called meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present.
2. Minutes of the October 12, 2021, Commission Meeting were attached to the meeting agenda and reviewed by members present. A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was requested; a male voice made the motion; it was seconded by Michael Apfelberg. A roll call vote was needed because Commissioner Charles Lloyd was in virtual attendance. The motion passed; minutes were approved.
3. Program Approvals - Richard Gustafson reported on two programs at Colby Sawyer College and one program at Saint Anselm College. Mr. Gustafson explained that expedited reviews were appropriate because both institutions are fully accredited by regional accrediting associations, both have existing master's degree programs.
 - a. Colby Sawyer College
 - First Program: Proposed Master of Social Work (MSW)- subject matter expert reviewer was Dr. Jibril Solomon from Bridgewater State University.
 - One-day review on March 25th with preliminary work and post work after the review.
 - This program fits within their mission and is linked to existing undergraduate programs on Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice.
 - Educational program to start in fall of 2023; primarily online, a 2-year program, using a cohort model, starting with 10 or 12 students.
 - Each of the first 2 years, will be reviewed by NICHE, and the program needs to be accredited by the Council for Social Work Education (CSWE).
 - The program is outlined, the course descriptions are in place, no full syllabi yet, but in preparation.
 - Graduation requirements are clear, the faculty resources are adequate, and have agreed to an additional full-time faculty member with a terminal degree in social work.
 - Student records are in place, the library resources are more than adequate.
 - Facilities and technologies are suitable for online delivery and remote learning.
 - Financially in good shape, and the budget carries funding for the additional faculty member and for the CSWE accreditation.
 - Public disclosure will be done on Colby Sawyer College website and in printed publications.
 - Recommendations in two segments -- approval through December 31, 2026, with a progress report filed by March 1st, 2023, with results from NICHE and also clear correspondence on work with the Council for Social Work Education.
 - Annual reports to be submitted beginning in December of 2023, as the program unfolds.

Questions were raised regarding the cost of the MSW credential and the income generated by employment in the field. This was not considered a problem because students are aware of career opportunities and there is a great need for social workers. With regard to the difficulty of clinical placements, a pipeline and relationship with Dartmouth and students' own initiative in finding placements are likely to make that a non-issue. The total cost of the whole program is \$37,000 for 62 credits, in a 2-year plus program.

Motion made and seconded to approve the proposed MSW program at Colby Sawyer; roll called for votes, motion passed without dissent, Sue Stuebner abstained.

- Second Program: Proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) coordinated by Dick Gustafson, with subject matter expert reviewer Dr. Donna Proulx from Rivier University.
- A one-day review was conducted.
- The proposed program fits well with the mission of the nursing program; the college already has undergraduate and graduate programs in nursing.
- The DNP program will be tied to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical system, where a number of people there are seeking a program at this level for their own graduate level nurses.
- This primarily an online program will have 37 credit hours with some prerequisites; there might be a 12-hour prerequisite set of courses, and a thousand hours of baccalaureate practice hours, some of those hours may have been taken as part of a master's degree program.
- The program will be reviewed by CCNE, the accrediting group that currently accredits Colby Sawyer's existing nursing programs and it would also be up for a substantive change at an upcoming NICHE meeting.
- Suggestions were made regarding mapping of the curriculum and the establishment of an advisory group. A scholarly clinical project is needed and was discussed with people at Dartmouth including capstone or scholarly activities at the end of the doctoral program.
- The graduation requirements are clear; the registration function is in place.
- Well-qualified faculty are currently teaching in the undergrad and graduate program; there would be an additional need for one more faculty member to support this program.
- Students are required to have an MSN degree or be in a MSN-DNP program which are available; student records are straight forward, the program audits are in place.
- The online delivery platform is well connected to the library and the resources that students might need; they also have access to the library facilities at Dartmouth College -- especially those in the medical fields.
- The finances include some credit hours being charged at the master's level of \$600 a credit hour and others at the higher rate for doctoral programs and the cost of the program is estimated at around \$25,000.

- Recommendations were to provide more information in March of 2023, with approval for the substantive change from NICHE and evidence of their work and progress with CCNE of the provision for the additional full-time, qualified faculty member and a copy of the finished course syllabi and any memorandum of understanding for placements for the DNP students.
- Annual reports on the status of the program and developments over time are to be submitted, beginning in December 2023.

Questions related to employment opportunities for graduates of the doctoral program were raised. Opportunities abound as clinicians or researchers or in academia as teachers with the goal of improving patient outcomes. Another question was since this is the first doctoral program for Colby Sawyer, were there issues with regard to authorization by the Commission to offer a degree at that level? No, there is precedent for other institutions as they've matured. Is there a mechanism in place to validate the requirement of 500 hours of supervised practicum at the master's level? Yes, the 1000 hours is a national standard; the American Association for the College of Nursing -- defines these practicum hours as having to be supervised, directors of master's programs also validate the 500 hours of supervised practicum. A final question was regarding the number of online programs at Colby Sawyer. At least six programs were named and were primarily in the healthcare area.

Motion made and seconded by Michelle Perkins to approve program. In a roll call vote, motion passed without dissent, Sue Stuebner abstained.

b. Saint Anselm College

- Proposed Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program was reviewed with subject matter expert reviewer Dr. Patricia Corbett from New England College.
- An on-site visit was conducted on March 21st.
- The MAT program would provide an opportunity for students who later in their college career, begin to think more seriously about going into teaching.
- Initially it's only open to Saint Anselm students that are on the campus and may be in other liberal arts programs there.
- The MAT program would provide an opportunity for students to stay for another year plus and earn an MAT degree with certification in a particular discipline that they wish to teach.
- The program will be reviewed by the Council for Teacher Education in the state of New Hampshire for the disciplines, and the State Board of Education for licensure, disciplines, and pedagogy, as appropriate.
- This MAT program can be used by many disciplines from Visual Arts through Computer Science.
- The program fits well with the Saint Anselm College mission and the existing teacher education programs; it has the potential of increasing the rank of secondary student level teachers.

- It's a 40-credit program that is like 4 plus 1; it will be delivered face to face and with some online support to the students at St. Anselm College who would stay on for that fifth year.
- A director for the program is currently within the education department, and the content is well laid out.
- Student record keeping and library resources are in place as are the facilities and technology.
- The college is well situated financially.
- A cohort model beginning with 10 or 12 students in the spring semester of their junior year and continuing in their senior year; initially trying to identify seniors in the spring of 2023.
- The cost of the program is about \$27,000.
- Public disclosure through the website and printed materials would be in place. The 4 plus 1 program is similar to the one that exists for Criminal Justice/Criminology that was approved a couple years ago.
- Approval of the program is recommended; however, the program could not begin until the professional educator's programs are approved, that is the Council for Teacher Education and the State Board of Education.
- Annual reports from Saint Anselm beginning in December of 2023 regarding enrollment and graduation figures when appropriate and other resources that come to the program.

Questions included the level of student interest? Mr. Appleby stated that it is not likely to be a big program but the need for good teachers is a driving force behind having such a program to meet the need for teachers that are well qualified, interested, and ready to go. How will the 40-credit hour requirement be met? It was explained that the program involves year-round course work, starting right after senior graduation.

Motion made by Frank Edelblut and seconded by Sister Paula Buley. Called for discussion. Roll called for vote; motion passed without dissent; Joseph Favazza abstained.

4 . Prospectus for a New Institution - Steve Appleby welcomed the virtual appearance of Triant Flouris in Athens, Greece and asked him to introduce himself and the individual with him on screen.

- a. The New England Aeronautical Institute.
 - Triant Flouris is the AA of an institution in Greece, and the largest private higher education institution in Greece. Alex Tecnani (phonetic), the managing director of Global Aviation appeared with Flouris from Athens, Greece. Global is the largest flight school in the country, and one of the premier flight schools in the European continent.

- The highlights of the prospectus were explained by Mr. Flouris in a What, Who, Why, and How format. Mr. Flouris worked on the academics of this endeavor and Alex worked on the finances.
- What is proposed is the establishment of a truly online, single-purpose, focused, institution of higher education -- an aeronautical institute granted authority by the state to award aviation education degrees.
- Who - The idea and the endeavor started through discussion with some of the deans at Daniel Webster College prior to it becoming part of ITDSI and members of the starting Board of Directors -- Tom Teller, Nick Bertosi, John Slater, and Triant Flouris with combined expertise in aviation, liberal arts, engineering. People that believe in this concept that are aviation leaders, include George Antonivis, who runs PlaneSense, the largest aviation company in the state, Ted Kitchens who runs Manchester Airport, the largest airport in the state, the President of Signum University, a purely online, single-purpose institution that has been granted authority by the state fairly recently, and Wayne Jones, the provost of the University of New Hampshire.
- Why - The prospects for aviation education are incredible; projected workforce requirements are significant. A new approach is needed to aviation education, technology inspired by best global practices.
- How - It will be done online; that's where science and aviation combine the practical aspects with a high-end curriculum inspired by best practices academically and the practices of FAR Global Aviation and through partnerships with flight schools. The first flight school, the first partnership is in Greece, but that's just the beginning.

Mr. Appleby asked Triant, for a timetable or plan for progress on establishing the aeronautical institute by the Commission's October meeting. In response to Mr. Appleby's question about a timetable or plan for progress, Mr. Flouris stated that a dossier based on the current administrative rules, the eleven standards had been drafted and based on the feedback received today, they will proceed with a submission to be considered in the October meeting. By-laws are written; there will be some additions to the Board, and there are meetings planned during the summer to fine-tune plans and chart the path for the future.

Mr. Appleby explained that once the Commission office receives the proposal, a standard review will be conducted, experts from aviation schools around the country will be brought in to review the program. After the review is conducted, the results will be reported in a future Commission meeting, hopefully for October, if the timing works out.

Other questions for Triant included why do financials for this nonprofit 501 (c)(3) read like a for profit business? What are those revenues being plowed back into as a nonprofit? Triant explained that the objective was to create a viable financial plan for the institution. The extra revenues are planned as investments in the organization itself. In terms of the future, hopefully, an endowment will be established.

Another question was what's the source of your initial investment, the start-up capital? The initial investment will be provided by Global Aviation, they're basically the ones that are going to support the start-up phase of the organization.

Have the Board members, identified in the proposal, agreed to undertake these roles? Yes, they all have agreed.

5. Administrative Rules Revision - Discussion by Steve Appleby

Mr. Appleby presented a second draft of the Hedc-400 rules for members to take and review when convenient. The goal is at the October meeting, have an initial proposal for an update to the Higher Ed rules, the Hedc -400s, and also at that time have an initial proposal of the Hedc-300 Career School rules, as those are coming up for annual review. Dick had put together a document for the last October meeting where he listed the significant high-level changes; this will be done after this meeting and will be e-mailed to everyone. This e-mailed document will lay out the biggest changes aligning our rules more with NICHE's, having our standards be similar, having the same number of standards. Hopefully, this will streamline some of the work for all when adding new programs.

There were no questions on the Hedc's. Bedtime reading.

6. Director's Report - Highlights Presented by Steve Appleby

- New staff, Amy Martell, the Office of Career School Licensing, replacing of Kitlan Kumisir (phonetic) who has moved into the Bureau of Educator Credentialing, as our Criminal Record Check Coordinator.
- The department was tasked by the legislature with conducting criminal record checks on certain categories of K-12 employees and Kitlan is leading that effort in Bureau Credentialing.
- Whitney has updated the look and feel of a number of items, you'll notice new name plates, the one mistake, notwithstanding, we'll get that fixed Cathy.
- Based on feedback from staff in the field, Whitney consolidated all of the individual attachments into one searchable pdf, making it more user-friendly.
- Dick Gustafson put together the numerous administrative approvals and updates in the Director's report.
- As noted by Laura Stoneking, there is a new section to call out educative preparation activities to show all the activity going on across the institutions.
- Last Fall, the governor signed into law an office for school licensing law that exempted from licensure smaller career schools, those that with under \$100,000 a year in revenue. The law was in response to complaints from yoga schools and lobbying by the Yoga Alliance. The legislature settled upon a middle ground of exempting the smaller schools; these are typically hobbies for folks that run these as a second or third career.

Jeffrey Newman pointed out that a couple voluntarily remained in the system, maintaining their license to provide other benefits or access to tuition funding such as the GI bill. Additional examples of this were discussed.

Continuing with the Director's Report, Steve Appleby reported:

- Veteran's Administration (VA)-- currently 12,947 students are receiving benefits according to the VA, significantly more than a year ago their report to us was that there were 7,170 students. (Jeff offered that some of the increase is because of the new GI bill -- Chapter 33 allows for the easy transfer of benefits to children or spouses.)
- Research in the back of the report was prepared by Musrat Jihan (phonetic) who comes from another State department, where she did economic statistics and research. Ms. Jihan is replacing Jan Fedario who has retired.

7. Commission Meeting Dates for 2022 - 2023 (Tentative) - Steve Appleby

- Instead of the standard one-year out. The meeting dates are selected for two years. It's always the same Tuesdays, three times a year: October, February, and May.
- This will be put in print and posted on the website. If there are any issues with these dates, they can be discussed in October. Historically, these are the same dates that we have used for many, many years.

Steve Appleby asked if there were questions about the Director's Report, dates, or rules?

There was a question regarding the meeting locations. The Division location is very fluid however it is hoped that the current location will remain fixed for a long, long time.

Tom Laliberte asked if someone was willing to make the most important move?

8. Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn, seconded, motion passed without dissent.

Discussion after adjournment: Why did you need to call roll when you had a quorum present? Because one Commissioner was remote, so per the state rule, we have to call the roll for every vote. Steve Appleby asked if anyone has any comments about the Director's Report, please let him know because the goal is to make it user-friendly, and Whitney would love the feedback.

Thanks. Take care everybody.