



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2019

A meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court in Concord at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, with the following members present:

Michele Perkins, Chair
Donald Birx, Vice Chair
Michael Apfelberg
Sr. Paula Marie Buley
James Dean
Frank Edelblut
Mark Laliberte
Todd Leach
Kim Mooney
Kevin O'Shea
Mark Rubinstein
Melinda Treadwell

The following members were unable to attend:

John Curran
Ross Gittell
Paul LeBlanc
Charles Lloyd
Susan Stuebner
Alfred Williams

- 1) Frank Edelblut welcomed Kevin O'Shea, lay member appointed by the Governor and Council, a resident of NH, having no official connection with any college, university, or private postsecondary career school or as an employee, trustee, or member on a board of directors. Attorney O'Shea is with Sulloway & Hollis in Concord, NH.
- 2) Chair Perkins called the meeting to order.

- 3) Mr. Edelblut moved, seconded by Sr. Paula Marie Buley, to accept the minutes of May 14, 2019. The motion passed without dissent, with Mr. O'Shea abstaining.
- 4) Richard Gustafson presented the request from the American University of Madaba to offer the Bachelor of Science in Data Science, the Bachelor of Arts in Design and Visual Communication and the Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management. Team members included Innocentus Alhamis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Southern New Hampshire University, Lori Ann Stein, ABD, Independent Art Historian, and Kevin Wayne, DBA, Associate Professor, Rivier University. The evaluation was held during a video conference and addressed all Commission standards.

With all standards being met, it was recommended the Commission vote to approve new degree-granting authority for the Bachelor of Science in Data Science, the Bachelor of Arts in Design and Visual Communication and the Bachelor of Arts in Human Resource Management through May 10, 2020, to align with the approval date of the other University programs. The October, 2019 onsite Evaluation Team will follow-up on questions raised by the evaluators and ascertain the presence of certain program staffing and resources as noted in the individual evaluator reports. Recommendations regarding continuing program approvals for these three degree programs will be included in the Evaluation Report prepared by the onsite Evaluation Team.

Mr. Edelblut moved, seconded by Mr. Dean, to accept the recommendations. The motion passed without dissent, with Sr. Paula Marie Buley abstaining.

- 5) Frank Edelblut presented the request from the American University of Madaba to offer the following degrees through May 10, 2020, which is eight years from the initial Commission approval:
 - Bachelor of Science
 - Civil Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Biology and Biotechnology
 - Medical Laboratories
 - Nutrition and Dietetics
 - Pharmacy
 - Computer Science
 - Architecture
 - Data Science
 - Bachelor of Arts
 - Accounting
 - Business Administration
 - Marketing
 - Risk Management
 - Graphic Design
 - English Language and Literature
 - Translation
 - Interior Design
 - Banking and Finance

- Design and Visual Communication
- Human Resources Management

This will allow the Commission to consider the results of the onsite review to take place late October 2019 and to determine the status of good standing with the accreditation process with the New England Commission of Higher Education at its February 12, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Leach moved, seconded by Ms. Mooney to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent, with Sr. Paula Marie Buley abstaining.

- 6) With Chair Perkins recusing herself, Frank Edelblut presented the New England College Phase II Progress Report of June 30, 2019 on the merger of New England College and the New Hampshire Institute of Art. This report addressed trustee governance and organization, faculty consolidation, library and art gallery resources, building a single college community, curriculum consolidation and online access, and plans for facilities, and real estate, and financial planning. It was recommended the Commission vote to accept the Progress Report. Further, the Commission would receive a final merger report addressing the same matters upon the completion of Phase II. This report would be due on or before September 1, 2020.

This approval was with the condition that copies of all correspondence to and from the New England Commission of Higher Education and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design be forwarded to the Commission. Additionally the Commission would be invited to attend any scheduled visits. Participation as an observer at site visits would be determined upon receipt and review of correspondence.

Sr. Paula Marie Buley moved, seconded by Mr. Leach, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent, with Chair Perkins abstaining.

- 7) Mr. Edelblut presented the request from Hellenic American University to rename the Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics to the Ph.D. in Language and Communication. It is not changing the program structure, the curricular content nor the graduation requirements, but only the name to better align it with the curriculum, the jobs its graduates are obtaining, and the designations being used in the marketplace.

Mr. Laliberte moved, seconded by Mr. Dean, to approve the request. The motion passed without dissent.

- 8) Jonah Moos, Chair of the Assessment Committee at St. Michael's College, Colchester, VT, presented the request from Hellenic American University to offer the ESOL/TESOL Assessment Program embedded in already approved academic degree programs. Based on his observations, he concluded that ABLE B2 meets the requirements established in the NH Code of Administrative Rules, Hcd 400-405, as a program that is in full compliance with the rest of previously approved programs. It was recommended the Commission vote to approve ABLE B2 and align the approval with the University's Interim Report due to the New England Commission of Higher Education in 2023. During this period, it is expected that the Office of Language Assessment will be able to evaluate and publish research further examining the validity and reliability of ABLE B2 in its new context. It was also recommended that Hellenic American University provide a follow-up report to provide further evidence of the validity and reliability, and positive feedback from ABLE B2 as

part of its 2023 report to the New England Commission of Higher Education, and thus, be included in the accreditation process of the New England Commission of Higher Education.

Mr. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. Leach, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 9) Mr. Edelblut presented the request from the MCPHS University to align degree approvals. The University has a series of academic programs in the health professions that have been accredited for many years, including regional accreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education. To continue to require the University to provide the Commission with volumes of documents from its numerous health program accrediting entities is costly, time consuming, and creates unnecessary duplication of effort. The Commission, under Hedc 400 of the NH Code of Administrative Rules, retains the right to initiate an evaluation of any program if necessary. Further, the Commission's general practice is to accept regional accreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education and regularly observes these accreditation visits. It was recommended the Commission vote to approve MCPHS University to continue to offer the above degrees without a terminal date, and repeal the requirement that all materials to/from the Accreditation Review Commission of Education for the Physician Assistant, the Accreditation Council on Pharmaceutical Education, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the NH Board of Nursing, and the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education be sent to the Commission.

The requirement for copies of all correspondence to and from the New England Commission of Higher Education be provided to the Commission would remain. Additionally, the Commission would participate in any scheduled accreditation visit as an observer as determined upon review and receipt of correspondence and reports.

The requirement for annual reports for these programs, due by December 31st of each year, remains in force. These reports address:

- a) Academic program offerings
- b) Enrollments/completions by site(s)
- c) Any substantive curricular changes
- d) Any significant changes in faculty
- e) Verification of accreditation

Ms. Treadwell moved, seconded by Mr. Birx, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 10) Mr. Edelblut presented the request from Southern New Hampshire University to continue to offer the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing. It is currently approved to offer these degrees until December 31, 2019 contingent upon accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education conducted an onsite evaluation on March 10-13, 2019 with Anita Pavlidis serving as the observer. She presented a favorable Evaluation Report and recommended terminal approval pending the decision by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. It was recommended the Commission vote to approve Southern New Hampshire University to continue to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing through June 30, 2020 to accommodate the accreditation timetable.

Mr. Leach moved, seconded by Mr. Birx, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 11) Richard Gustafson presented the request from the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education/Upper Valley Educators Institute to offer the Master of Education for all concentrations to clarify degree pathways. Changes are in response to feedback from the New England Commission of Higher Education's Eligibility Report in preparation for the Candidacy Self-Study in anticipation of an evaluation visit in 2020.

The first request was to offer the Master of Education degree for all of its program concentrations. Currently, the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education is authorized to award the Master of Arts degree, with concentrations in Instructional Practice and Teacher Leadership, and the Master of Education degree in School Leadership. The Master of Arts degree would be phased out as current students graduate. All new students would be enrolled in the Master of Education degree program. This request follows a review of naming conventions across institutions and from student and administrator feedback.

The second request is to extend the existing approved "experienced educator" pathway to all degree concentrations. Currently, the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education is authorized to offer the Master of Arts degree to qualified candidates who are seeking the degree, but who did not attend Upper Valley Educators Institute for their initial preparation. Such candidates are required to meet the same experiential requirements and standards of advanced competency as those who attended Upper Valley Educators Institute for initial preparation. The Upper Valley Graduate School of Education would extend this option to all Master of Education pathways regardless of concentration. This would create more clear and consistent procedures across all Master of Education concentrations.

It was recommended the Commission vote to approve the Upper Valley Graduate School of Education to offer the Master of Education degree, with concentrations in Instructional Practice, Teacher Leadership, and School Leadership, with aligned requirements and standards for all concentrations, through December 31, 2022, with the following conditions:

- a) The Commission receives all correspondence from the New England Commission of Higher Education regarding its candidacy status. Additionally, the Commission be invited to observe any site visit(s).
- b) The Commission receives all correspondence to and from the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training regarding its accreditation. Additionally, the Commission be invited to observe any Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training site visit(s).
- c) The Commission receives all correspondence to and from the NH Department of Education's Council for Teacher Education regarding its teacher and administrator certification/licensure programs.

Mr. Laliberte moved, seconded by Mr. Apfelberg, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 12) Mr. Edelblut presented the request from Vermont Technical College to operate in New Hampshire and offer the Practical Nursing Program at Glenclyff Home in Glenclyff, NH. An onsite visit was held on June 19, 2019 at Glenclyff Home with Anita Pavlidis, holding a Master of Science in Nursing from Boston University and former employee of the NH Board of Nursing, and Pamela Langley, holding a Doctor of Law and Policy from Northeastern University and former Vice President of Academic Affairs at the NHTI - Concord's Community College serving as evaluators.

Richard Gustafson reported the visit went well with all Commission standards being met, it was recommended the Commission vote to approve the Vermont Technical College/Glenclyff Home's Practical Nursing Program through June 30, 2022 to align with the Accrediting Commission on Education in Nursing accreditation status or if a change in their accreditation occurs, with the Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation.

This approval is conditioned upon Vermont Technical College/Glenclyff Home providing the following by April 1, 2020:

- a) Completion of the job classification and supplemental job description of the Glenclyff Home nurse educator in compliance with New Hampshire Office of Personnel and New Hampshire Board of Nursing requirements.
- b) Evidence of a properly credentialed faculty/nurse educator retained and approved by the NH Board of Nursing as faculty for the Practical Nursing Program students.
- c) Letters of commitment from affiliated clinical agencies providing student learning experiences.
- d) A budget for revenues and expenses associated with the implementation of the Practical Nursing program. The budget document should footnote any in-kind support provided by Vermont Technical College and Glenclyff Home.
- e) Evidence of Wi-Fi and related technology availability to PN students at the Glenclyff Home site.
- f) An updated MOU defining the Vermont Technical College/Glenclyff Home relationship for the delivery of the program.
- g) Feedback from the Community College System of New Hampshire regarding the program.

Vermont Technical College/Glenclyff Home shall submit a progress report by December 31, 2020 on the program, its enrollment, finances, staffing, and plans for a second cohort for the fall of 2021. This report shall also provide updates on any nursing accreditation activities at the Vermont Technical College.

The Higher Education Commission shall conduct a site visit in April, 2021 to document program status, student completions, enrollments for the fall of 2021, continued financial support for the program, and program approval beyond June 30, 2022

This approval is with the condition that copies of all correspondence to and from the New England Commission of Higher Education and the Accrediting Commission on Education in Nursing be forwarded to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission would be invited to attend any scheduled accreditation visits. Participation as an observer at site visits would be determined upon review and receipt of correspondence.

Sister Paula Marie moved, seconded by Ms. Treadwell, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 13) Frank Edelblut presented meeting dates for 2020 as follows:
- Tuesday, February 11, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, May 19, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday, October 20, 2020 @ 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Treadwell moved, seconded by Sister Paula Marie, to accept the meeting dates. The motion passed without dissent.

- 14) Frank Edelblut presented highlights of the Director's Report. Major highlights included:
- a) Have a candidate for the vacancy of the director of the Division of Educator Support and Higher Education.
 - b) New hire replacing Ashlee Stetser is Laura Stoneking, Administrator III for the Council of Higher Education and Higher Education Commission. Laura is a Keene State College alumna and previous principal.
- 15) Under Other Business, Mr. Leach reported that Mr. Edelblut and he were asked to speak to the General Court of New Hampshire's Public Higher Education Study Committee concerning the Commission's role in approving a new college and/or degree-granting program in NH. The Committee questions why there is an additional layer requiring the NH Legislature to pass legislation after the Commission already approves. There may be an LSR coming soon to address this.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.