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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 October 12, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. with the following members present:

Donald Birx, Chair
Sr. Paula Marie Buley, Vice Chair
Michael Apfelberg
Joseph Favazza
Mark Laliberte
Cathy Provencher
Kim Mooney
Kevin O'Shea
Melinda Treadwell
Michele Perkins

The following members were not present:

James Dean
Frank Edelblut
Susan Huard
Charles Lloyd
Mark Rubinstein
Susan Stuebner
Alfred Williams

1. Chair Donald Birx called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. Director Appleby shared highlights from the Director's Report.
 - Whitney Vaillancourt was hired to fill an opening to support the commission and the division. She comes from the business office at the DOE.
 - SB 134, relative to criminal records checks, is being updated to be the responsibility of the State Department. It's being implemented legislatively in phases. The first phase was background checking bus drivers and bus monitors. The next phase is ed prep students and new license applicants.
 - A joint visit was done at St. Anselm College when they were adding an educator prep program.
 - The governor signed legislation to recognize Signum University.
 - Fees have been reinstated for career school licensing and college transcripts.
3. Sr. Paula Buley moved, seconded by Melinda Treadwell, to accept the meeting minutes of May 12, 2021. The motion passed without dissent.
4. a. Dr. Gustafson reviewed the report from the St. Anselm Review - Master in Education.
 - A joint visit was done with CTE.
 - The program will be within the department of education.
 - The director is also a licensed special educator and was highly involved in the program development.
 - It will be a 4+1 program for St. Anselm graduates. It will be a K-12 special education program with two internships to experience elementary and secondary levels.
 - Faculty is well prepared. They have an ample budget for the program and plan to add an additional full time faculty member once the program is fully approved.
 - The recommendation is approval of the MEd with special education through December 31, 2024. An annual report will be required for the first three years.
 - They expect to start with a cohort of 10 students.

Sr Paula Buley moved, seconded by Michele Perkins, to recommend approval of the MEd with special education through December 31, 2024. The motion passed without dissent with Joseph Favazza abstaining.

b. Dr. Gustafson reviewed report on program from New England College: a clinical cooperative BSN degree program.

- An onsite visit was done.
- A full-time director is on board for the program, who is highly experienced in the area of nursing education.
- The program links to the mission of the institution.
- It will be housed in the area of health professions. There's an associate dean for that segment of the undergraduate program.
- It's a year-round program lasting 33 months. Students coming in need to have or earn a LNA licensure. Cooperative sites for internships can also be LNA paid positions.
- 124 credit program aligned to be accredited with the CCNE.
- Financial resources are in place.
- The expect up to 40 students in the first cohort.
- The recommendation is approval through June 30, 2025, with additional information provided in April and annual reports beginning December 31, 2022. An additional recommendation to affirm degree granting approval for the RN to BSN to June 30, 2025, so the two nursing programs align.

Michael Apfleberg moved, seconded by Kim Mooney, to recommend approval of New England College program: a clinical cooperative BSN degree program through June 30, 2025. In addition, the commission recommends affirming degree granting approval for the RN to BSN program to June 30, 2025. The motion passed without dissent with Michele Perkins abstaining.

5. Director Appleby shared the division have worked to create a task force to create a base climate survey. Campuses can use the survey to collect statewide data to be presented on the DOE website. There is a line in legislation that tasks the division and higher education commission with rulemaking. He shared an initial proposal of rules to support the statute.
 - The start time is not before January 2024.
 - The survey will be conducted every two years.
 - The first deadline was disseminating base survey to commission.
 - The next deadline is approving administrative rules.
 - IHEs will deliver the survey in a consistent timeline. Reporting is due from individual institutions just on the base survey elements, which will be posted. The survey may be used as a component of an integrated campus climate survey.
 - The data will be used by advocacy groups to be compared with other states.

Joseph Favazza moved, seconded by Kevin O'Shea, to approve the initial proposal. The motion passed without dissent.

6. Dr. Gustafson shared that the commission previously voted to look at HEDC 400 rules. He reviewed the proposed changes.
 - The rules indicate the oversight of the commission. The change would say that if it's NC SARA institution in an NC SARA state, the commission would not review them because they are covered by SARA.
 - A new section is being proposed entitled Commission Operations, which would include the committee bylaws.
 - Institutions seeking New Hampshire with a main campus outside of the United States would no longer be considered.
 - Historically there have been three types of reviews: comprehensive review, expedited review, and administrative review. The proposal is to eliminate the expedited review as it is very similar to an administrative review.
 - There's a suggestion for electronic paperwork and materials.
 - There's language to notify the chairpersons of the house and senate education committees that they might appoint a member to participate in evaluations conducted by the commission. There has been almost no interest in participating in a visit to a campus. The proposal is to strike that language from the rules.
 - There's a proposal to move to 9 standards, ordered and named the same as NICHE.
 - Another recommendation is that when reports are submitted to CCNE, NICHE, etc. it comes to the commission as well.
 - Currently when a school closes, they submit hard copy transcripts and catalogs. The suggestion is to switch to electronic. This would involve a law change.
 - Some fees will be moved around and cleaned up.

7. Michael Apfleberg moved, seconded by Sr. Paula Buley, to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m. The motion passed without dissent.