

EAB Board Meeting of February 1, 2000

Members Present:

Ray Boland, Chair of the Educational Approval Board, called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

Absent: Gene Kussart, Georgiana Giese, Delora Newton

Others Present: Jim Falco (National Louis University), Karen Pedersen (Upper Iowa University), Don Madelung (Herzing College), Mary Meyer (Bryant & Stratton College), Patti Epstein (Inacom), Scott Dell (New Horizons Computer Learning Center), Deborah A. Uecker (State Budget Office), John Poland (Techskills.com), Gail Anderson (Techskills.com), Linda Heidtman, Joan Fitzgerald, Maurice Spencer, Nina Tallard, Yvonne Hagen, Pat Sweeney, Joe Davis (EAB staff).

Mr. Boland referred the members to the Minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded – the motion carried.

Presentations

Upper Iowa University (an out-of-state college with locations in Wisconsin):

Karen Pedersen presented to the board.

Dr. Pedersen described Upper Iowa's background and explained its various programs, which have a particular focus on the adult learner. She noted that the bulk of its students, in Wisconsin, were in B.A. degree completion. Sites include Madison, Prairie du Chien, Milwaukee, Wausau and Janesville. Highlighting its special impact on Wisconsin: progressive transfer policies, collaborative agreements with other schools (e.g., articulation agreements with Wisconsin Technical Colleges), and flexible course schedules. Dr. Pedersen noted that Upper Iowa does extensive work with military personnel, including the capacity to serve students in active duty on submarines.

Mr. Boland asked about on-line offerings.

Dr. Pedersen noted that the Master of Arts in Business Leadership can be on-line. Upper Iowa has contracted with 'Convene' to host its programming. The standards and requirements are the same for on-site or on-line instruction: they are simply two delivery models.

Mr. Boland asked about study on board a submarine, if the M.A. was the only program available electronically.

Dr. Pedersen responded that an individual could earn the B.A. (which is also an external program) through traditional correspondence instruction.

Mr. Conner asked about Upper Iowa's specific impact on Wisconsin.

Dr. Pedersen said that Upper Iowa tracks enrollment by the term: a snapshot is that there are 3,600 learners in the extended university with roughly 1/3 in Wisconsin.

Mr. Brueggeman asked about the \$465 cost.

Dr. Pedersen said that this is the cost for a 3 credit course – on-line tuition is slightly higher @ \$600.

Mr. Boland asked about the Wisconsin centers; whether they offered instruction in the daytime, evenings, etc.

Dr. Pedersen said that the bulk of learners attended in the evening and on weekends. Upper Iowa had experimented with early morning, but this did not seem popular.

Mr. Berg asked if there were any plans for expansion.

Dr. Pedersen said that there were no plans at the moment. She added that Upper Iowa approaches any new undertaking with solid planning.

Mr. Berg asked if there were sites in Minnesota.

Dr. Pedersen said that there were not.

Mr. Boland stated that he is also a member of the Governor's Workforce Development Board and thought that it would be useful for that body to have a presentation on the larger EAB sector and the significance of the training provided to the workforce.

National Louis University (an out-of-state college located near Milwaukee):

Jim Falco presented to the board.

He began with a history of the school all the way back to the late 1880s. In 1978 National Louis initiated a program (its 'field' model) in which National Louis came to the student. National Louis has been in Wisconsin for 20 years and under the EAB's authority since 1995 – it has five campuses in Illinois and 5 out-of-state (including Wisconsin) with a site in Heidelberg, Germany.

Mr. Boland asked how long the school had been in Heidelberg.

Mr. Falco said 10-15 years. He stated that National Louis serves 650 students in Wisconsin and currently offers the Masters of Education in Curriculum & Instruction and in Educational Leadership. These programs result in licensure by the Department of Public Instruction. There is a new B.A. program planned in health care leadership for Wisconsin.

Mr. Boland asked what specifically this program entailed.

Mr. Falco said that it was targeted at individuals in the health care setting who wanted to move into supervision/management and not further clinical work.

Mr. Falco also noted that National Louis has other programs awaiting EAB approval (the DPI has already approved them for licensure): ESL/Bicultural, LD/BD License and Master of Arts in Secondary Education.

Mr. Falco stated that National Louis University is the 2nd largest education school in the nation. He explained the nature of its program development and hoped that the board members would be willing to talk about National Louis as an educational option; to network in the school's behalf. He concluded his report by explaining a new initiative in which National Louis is working on a federal multi-state grant to bring technology to K-12 schools and is starting in Milwaukee.

Mr. Boland asked if Mr. Falco would talk about distance education covering the points he did at his presentation at the EAB's February Conference.

Mr. Falco began by talking about Phoenix University's growth – that it is now well known and serves more than 68,000 students through distance education. He gave a short overview of the growth in the field and explained how major new actors are quickly coming on the scene: Harcourt-Brace is opening a new distance education arm; Open University (based in England) is gearing up for America; Western Governors University is the new big interstate consortium and is expanding to include states and schools in other regions.

Mr. Falco said that we are seeing larger operations, which are more entrepreneurial and providing just-in-time education and training.

Mr. Boland asked if you signed on to Western Governors University that the curriculum, per se, could consist of pieces from various institutions.

Mr. Berg added that it sounded like a smorgasbord.

Mr. Boland noted that Western Governors' was really a consortium.

Mr. Falco said that Indiana had just joined 'Western' Governors University.

Mr. Berg noted that this is the wave of the future.

Mr. Falco agreed.

Mr. Boland reminded Mr. Falco that he had cited some statistic about trends among high school graduates getting college education at home during his February presentation.

Mr. Falco said that that age cohort is growing due to the baby boom-let.

Distance Education Paper

Mr. Davis explained the intent of the paper – to prompt discussion about the proper limits of EAB's authority regarding out-of-state schools.

Mr. Berg asked about the EAB's authority in this area.

Mr. Davis stated that it was not clear about governmental institutions, but that private institutions clearly fell under Wisconsin statute. He reported that the Department of Justice had, for instance, been dealing with attorneys for Walden University (a distance education provider in Minnesota) which did not want to be approved by the EAB. If the situation does not end well, the EAB would take Walden to court.

Mr. Boland talked about discussions he has had, and had mentioned to the board previously, about a broad new policy view, looking to the coming budget cycle. He noted the chronology of the EAB's history (contained in EAB's draft budget document) and stated that there were many cycles, which the state and the EAB had gone through. In subsequent board meetings the members, he said, need to look at the larger issues.

Mr. Berg stated that there was a need to clarify jurisdictional matters.

Mr. Boland added that the issue was determining the kind of structure needed to do educational oversight.

Mr. Berg added that it was a matter of who should appropriately be doing this function.

Mr. Boland said that the major issue was that Wisconsin was one of only a handful of states without a higher education authority.

Mr. Berg said that many problems result from that.

Mr. Boland stated that there had been attempts in the past to move in that direction.

Mr. Berg said that most other states have a structural entity and there is no authority anywhere in Wisconsin – it is a bit awkward.

Mr. Conner said that the future will see state-supported schools offering more and more instruction in other states.

Mr. Boland said that he was surprised that the UW-System [as reported in e-mail to Mr. Davis] had no

official policy stance on distance education.

Mr. Berg thought this a little disconcerting.

Mr., Boland said that there was plenty for the board and the state to get its arms around. He said that the pressing task is to educate folks on what is going on – to really lay out all the issues and develop a plan for where to go in the future.

Conference Summary

Mr. Davis outlined the All School Conference report. He discussed the schools' chief concerns and said that the EAB was responding in its preliminary development work for the next budget cycle and in planning a mini-conference.

GI Bill Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the purpose of the GI Bill Pilot.

Mr. Spencer added that a key element of the pilot was the EAB's decision to begin looking at outcomes – at what effect the GI Bill actually had on veterans as a way to gauge its effectiveness – rather than look at compliance detail.

Mr. Boland said that this has impact beyond just this area. On March 27th he will be addressing Congress and for the first time will present perspectives on the role of state governments in veterans' benefits and services – and should, he said, talk about the GI Bill. The idea, he said, was to get the feds to devolve power and authority to the states. The Department of Veterans Affairs still does everything from Washington, D.C.

Mr. Spencer said that he had been a doubter at the start of the pilot, but was amazed to see the positive response from schools.

Mr. Boland noted that every student receiving GI Bill benefits had to report monthly.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Davis discussed the positive outcome to a discovery of a trucking company offering extra-legal training – the company cooperated fully with the EAB and changed its mode of operation. He mentioned that the EAB had approved a brand new college in Wisconsin: The Graduate College of Wisconsin, which concentrates on graduate degrees in counseling and has plans for aggressive growth. Mr. Davis also discussed new procedures for licensing Wisconsin teachers and noted that the EAB is included as part of the vetting process for out-of-state schools offering courses and not complete programs to teachers. He added that the EAB had been mentioned favorably at a meeting of the Assembly Colleges Committee on this subject.

Mr. Boland asked if there was any interaction with Troops to Teachers. Mr. Falco said that National Louis had met with DPI and EAB staff on new licensing procedures and Mr. Davis added that he had discussed the subject with DPI staff.

Mr. Davis reported that the EAB will be holding a mini-conference on May 9th as a follow-up to its first All Schools Conference.

Mr. Conner remarked that the third paragraph of the cover memo to the Conference Report really captured the notion that Wisconsin is not prepared to answer many of the current questions.

Mr. Davis pointed out the start of yet another new distance education company.

Mr. Conner moved to adjourn and Mr. Berg seconded. The motion carried.