

EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 13, 2007
10:30 a.m.

Eighth Floor Board Room
30 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI

Members Present: Christy L. Brown, Michael Cooney, Terry Craney, Jo Oyama-Miller, Joe Heim, and Monica Williams (via teleconference)

Members Absent: Rick Raemisch

Others Present: David Dies, Joan Fitzgerald, Linda Heidtman, Blanca James, and Patrick Sweeney, EAB; Brian Elliott, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek SC; Donald Madelung, Herzing College; Anita Weier, Capitol Times

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Michael Cooney, called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. A motion (Brown, Craney) to approve the board minutes of September 13, 2007 with corrections was adopted unanimously.

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Cooney reported that the EAB Conference took place on November 13. He stated that it was an outstanding conference with 130 participants and a display of unprecedented energy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Madelung commented on the conference; and he, too, complemented the EAB board and staff for putting together an outstanding conference.

SCHOOL APPROVAL ISSUES

Following a discussion about general school approval issues, as well as discussions about the University of International Arts and the St. Croix Culinary Institute, a motion (Williams/Oyama-Miller) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of September 6, 2007 through November 30, 2007 was approved unanimously.

RENEWAL FEE MULTIPLIER

Mr. Cooney introduced the fee multiplier agenda item and recommended the board approach it in three parts – amount of money needed for operations and student protection fund; the period of collection (one or two years); and the growth of school revenues.

Mr. Dies provided a brief explanation of the EAB's financial status. Last year the EAB underestimated expenditures and overestimated revenues resulting in a deficit. An analysis of the deficit found that one time/fixed fees were lower than projected, the budget did not anticipate mid-year salary adjustments, and the multiplier was not adjusted to account for the 10% withholding provision. As a result, the EAB needed to shift general operating expenditures to the Student Protection Fund (SPF) appropriation. In setting the renewal fee multiplier, the EAB will need to restore the SPF. EAB staff provided three options – restore the entire amount in 2008, restore a portion in 2008 and a portion in 2009, or restore it entirely in 2009.

The 2008 and 2009 multiplier calculations were discussed based on information and assumptions provided in the board materials. EAB staff recommended setting the multiplier used to calculate the second payment renewal fees at 2.2518 for 2008 and 2.2514 for 2009. This would achieve a relatively stable multiplier over the two-year period, assuming a 15% AGASR increase. The board would have the ability to revisit the multiplier for 2009 at its December 2008 meeting.

A motion (Brown, Heim) to accept staff recommendation was unanimously approved.

2008 – 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Dies presented a brief summary of the strategic plan and provided background information to the board. He pointed out that through the mission, values and goals set forth in the current strategic plan, the EAB attempted to answer fundamental questions, such as why does it exist, who does it serve, and what results should it seek to achieve. These questions also provided the foundation for the EAB's modernization agenda.

Mr. Cooney asked each board member to send individual responses to the strategic questions that had been presented in the materials to him via e-mail who would compile them and share them with board members for comment. Staff would then use the information to prepare a strategic plan draft that the board would consider at its meeting in March 2008.

2008 BOARD MEETING DATES

Following a brief discussion, a motion (Oyama-Miller, Brown) to set the 2008 board meeting dates on 3/13, 6/12, 9/11, and 12/11 was approved unanimously. The starting time for meetings will be 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Dies noted that the evaluation survey results for the EAB's 2007 annual conference were included in the board materials. He also followed up on the web-based renewal copyright/licensure issue discussed at the September meeting and the ability of the EAB to license its web-based renewal software application. Patricia Carlson, Assistant Chief Information Officer (CIO) at the Department of Administration (DOA) was contacted and informed Mr. Dies that the state's mission is one of infrastructure support, not application

development. She also directed him to statutory provisions that allow an agency to license a computer program it has developed to the federal government, other states, or municipalities. The EAB will create documentation of the software application and obtain a copyright as time and resources permit.

Reference was made to several legislative proposals summarized in the executive secretary's report that would affect students pursuing some type of postsecondary education, including a Postsecondary Education Tax Deduction, Associate/Bachelor Degree Tax Credit, and Business Education Tax Credit.

Mr. Dies gave a summary of his participation at the Career College Association (CCA) meeting of state associations, which he attended both as an EAB staff member and as the vice-president of NASASPS. He talked about the relationship that state regulators have with CCA and state associations, and ways in which NASASPS can work with CCA collaboratively on projects of common interest.

Board members were also informed by Mr. Dies that the EAB is preparing schools for changes related to the reporting of employment outcome information, which the EAB will be verifying next year. Although this information has been previously reported and included in the directory, the EAB has not had an established process in which the data has been verified.

EAB MODERNIZATION UPDATE

Mr. Dies directed board members to the information provided in the board materials and gave an update on the modernization bill, including a summary of the concerns expressed by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The EAB continues to work with the DPI and the office of Representative Stephen Nass (the sponsor of the bill) in an attempt to resolve the concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Oyama-Miller, Craney) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 12:07 p.m.