

## EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 8, 2007  
10:30 a.m.

Eighth Floor Board Room  
30 West Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI

**Members Present:** Christy L. Brown, Michael Cooney, Terry Craney, Joe Heim and Monica Williams

**Members Absent:** Jo Oyama-Miller and Rick Raemisch

**Others Present:** David Dies, Joan Fitzgerald, Blanca James, and Patrick Sweeney, EAB; Robert Myers, Career Education Corporation / Sanford-Brown College

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Terry Craney, called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. A motion (Williams, Cooney) to approve the board minutes of December 14, 2006 was adopted unanimously.

### BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Craney commented that the board would be electing officers during the meeting and indicated he would not be seeking the board chair position. He thanked board members and staff for the opportunity to serve as the chair during the past few years.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Myers, Regulatory Compliance Manager for Career Education Corporation, expressed his gratitude for including in the EAB board materials an article that referenced the recent action of the U.S. Department of Education lifting restrictions that had been in place on opening new Career Education Corporation campuses.

### OFFICER ELECTIONS

It was noted by Mr. Craney that state law requires the election of officers – chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary – at the board's first meeting of the year. A summary of the officer positions was provided with the board materials. Before nominations were requested, Mr. Craney read an email message from board member Oyama-Miller indicating that she would be interested in an officer position, secretary or vice-chair, should she be nominated.

Mr. Craney entertained nominations for secretary. Ms. Williams nominated Joseph Heim. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Heim accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously. Nominations for the vice chairperson were sought. Mr. Cooney nominated Monica Williams. No other nominations were made. Ms. Williams accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously. Mr. Craney entertained nominations for chair. Mr. Heim nominated Michael Cooney. No other nominations were offered. Mr. Cooney accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously. Mr. Craney turned over the chair to Mr. Cooney.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Mr. Dies highlighted the following items that were included in the executive secretary's report.

### *AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE EAB AND APPROVED SCHOOLS*

Approved Schools Directory - The directory is in production and board members should expect to receive it in a few weeks. Mr. Dies pointed out that the website version of the directory was accessed over 5,000 times during 2006.

External Relations - Mr. Dies directed the board members to various informational pieces in their board materials, which mentioned the EAB and represent growing exposure of the EAB.

### *POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND ALLIANCES*

Department of Regulation and Licensing – It was reported that Department of Regulation and Licensing (DRL) had consulted the EAB regarding various educational standards for the certification and regulation of substance abuse counselors. In February, the EAB testified in support of administrative rule changes proposed by DRL. Recent legislation transferred oversight of these professionals to DRL from the Department of Health and Family Services.

### *CONSUMER PROTECTION AND EDUCATIONAL CHOICES*

Education Tax Credit - Mr. Dies informed the board that legislation had been introduced to create a tax credit for businesses equal to 50% of the tuition paid for an individual to participate in a degree-granting program at a qualified postsecondary institute. He indicated that a number of EAB-approved schools would meet the definition of a qualified institution under the bill. It was noted that this is the fourth legislative session that the tax credit has been proposed.

Student Protection Fund - As part of the school renewal process, the EAB assesses a student protection fee. Mr. Dies indicated that the fund, which has a statutory cap of \$1.0 million, currently has a cash balance of over \$600,000.

## **SCHOOL APPROVAL ISSUES**

Mr. Cooney introduced the school approval issues paper and indicated that a motion for the approval of items “A” through “I” of the School Activity Report would be appropriate following any discussion. Mr. Dies highlighted two school related issues:

Stratford Career Institute - The EAB had received a number of complaints regarding this distance-learning career training school. During its investigation, the school was informed that it needed to become EAB-approved or stop enrolling Wisconsin students. Although the school does not believe it is subject to EAB’s regulatory oversight, further discussions with school officials are planned.

Career Education Corporation – It was noted that the restrictions on new CEC campuses imposed by the U.S. Department of Education had been recently lifted. This information was being provided to the board as a follow-up to earlier reports about the imposition of the restrictions.

A motion (Craney, Heim) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of December 1, 2006 through March 1, 2007 was approved unanimously.

## **EAB MODERNIZATION UPDATE**

Mr. Dies updated the board on recent activity regarding the EAB’s modernization initiative. At its December 2006 meeting, the board took action approving introduction of the modernization bill draft (LRB 01761) with any technical or construction changes recommended by legal counsel or the Department of Justice (DOJ). Mr. Dies reported that there were a number of changes suggested by DOJ which had been discussed with legal counsel.

A revised bill draft based on these suggestions was requested. This revised bill draft incorporated changes involving the wording of certain definitions. In addition, EAB staff has met with legislators (or their staff) who are members of the respective higher education committees for the purpose of making them aware of the bill and identifying potential sponsors. The revised bill draft was provided to board members for their information. The board took no action.

## **2007-09 BIENNIAL BUDGET**

Mr. Dies informed the board that except for standard adjustments, none of the budgeted items requested by the EAB were included in the Governor’s budget recommendations. In addition, Mr. Dies discussed several non-EAB related items included in the budget that board members should be aware of and consider taking a formal position.

State Tax Deduction of Tuition/Fees - increases the state tax deduction for tuition at a postsecondary institution to \$6,000 beginning in tax year 2007, and extends it to include academic fees.

Wisconsin Covenant - creates the Wisconsin Covenant Scholars program; a new initiative which guarantees that students who maintains a B average, takes the courses needed to succeed in college, and are good citizens by staying out of trouble and contributing to their communities will not be denied access to the University of Wisconsin, the state's technical colleges or participating private colleges.

Financial Aid - provides \$44 million GPR in additional financial aid for University of Wisconsin, technical college and private college students. The Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) will consider the bill before making a recommendation to the full Legislature.

The board took no action.

## **2007 ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Dies informed the board that EAB staff had changed the structure of this year's AMP document. As a result of the annual staff retreat in January, the 2007 plan is being modified so that project activities are identified separately from operational processes. Currently, EAB staff is working on individual projects using project management practices. Information about the current projects was provided in the board materials.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion (Brown, Heim) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 11:37 a.m.