

EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 11, 2008
10:30 a.m.

Eighth Floor Board Room
30 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI

Members Present: Michael Cooney, Terry Craney, Joe Heim, Rick Raemisch, and Monica Williams (via teleconference)

Members Absent: Christy L. Brown and Jo Oyama-Miller

Others Present: David Dies, Joan Fitzgerald, Blanca James, and Dan Powalisz, EAB; William Vinson, ITT Technical Institute-Madison; Fritz Oppenlander, Upper Iowa University; Brian Elliott, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek SC

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Michael Cooney, called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m. A motion (Craney, Heim) to approve the minutes of September 18, 2008 was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The public was asked to introduce themselves. No comment was provided.

BOARD STATUS REPORT

Mr. Cooney noted that the EAB had sent a letter about the Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA): Wisconsin initiative to the Wisconsin's PK-16 Leadership Council and a response was received from UW System President Kevin Reilly. Responding to questions about the initiative, Mr. Dies indicated that President Reilly's letter appears to be a courtesy response and sees no hidden meaning in it. The EAB has been participating in the PK-16 Leadership Council meetings, but has not been involved in the planning process of the MOA. The EAB is cautiously optimistic that it will be included in this initiative as it moves forward.

It was reported by Mr. Dies that there have been several meetings with the approved massage therapy schools approved by the EAB and the Wisconsin Massage Licensing Coalition to discuss legislation changing Wisconsin's massage therapy law from title protection to practice protection.

Michael Cooney and Monica Williams attended the EAB's annual schools conference and commented that it was well received and very positive. Mr. Dies pointed out that the presentations are available in the EAB's website and encouraged other board members to view them.

Mr. Dies summarized recent actions taken regarding "Carlingford University", a possible diploma mill.

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.

A motion (Heim, Williams) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of September 11, 2008 through December 1, 2008 was approved unanimously.

RENEWAL FEE MULTIPLIER

Mr. Dies summarized the December 2007 actions taken to determine the 2009 renewal fee multiplier. After comments and discussion between EAB staff and board members, the EAB staff recommendation that no changes be made to the renewal fee multiplier for 2009 was accepted.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

State Budget – Mr. Dies noted that the 2009-11 budget request was submitted and is currently being reviewed by the Department of Administration (DOA). It includes the addition of three 0.5 FTE program revenue-funded positions to address the legal, planning, and administration needs of the EAB. He suggested a letter could be signed by the chair of the board on behalf of the entire board indicating support for the budget. After a discussion and a lack of consensus on this issue, the board decided that the request sufficiently stated the EAB’s position and no further action should be taken.

Separate Legislation – A summary of potential legislative issues to be pursued during the legislative session were discussed. The EAB staff recommended the board adopt a motion supporting the following initiatives.

- Modernization of the EAB’s statutory provisions based on the bill, as amended, that was considered during the 2007-09 legislative session.
- Diploma/degree mill legislation (including provisions that would restrict the use of the terms “college” and “university” and make it a crime to knowingly use a “credential” from a degree/diploma mill to obtain employment or financial gain).

A motion (Heim, Williams) to approve the above separate legislation items as recommended by EAB staff was approved unanimously.

2009 BOARD MEETING DATES

Following a brief discussion the board selected March 12, June 11, September 10, and 12/17 as its meeting dates for 2009.

EAB DATABASE REDESIGN PRESENTATION

Interest was expressed by board members during a previous meeting to have a presentation on the EAB's database redesign project. Mr. Dies used a PowerPoint presentation to provide a summary of the project. He discussed how the database is integrated with the EAB's operations. Mr. Dies addressed the rationale for the project and described the structure of the new database. It was noted that the total cost of the project was estimated to be less than \$20,000 based on the total development and implementation time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Craney, Heim) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 12:05 p.m.