

EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, 2009
10:30 a.m.

9th Floor Board Room
30 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI

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

Others Present: David Dies and Blanca James, EAB; Shana Weiss, Brock Vander Velden, Globe University; Don Madelung, Herzing University; Steve Guell, Lana Khachaturov, Rachelle Perotto, Mark Szolyga, Sanford-Brown College; Fritz Oppenlander, Upper Iowa University; Mike Rogowski, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek SC

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Michael Cooney, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A motion (Craney, Raemisch) to approve the September 9, 2009 board meeting minutes was adopted unanimously.

BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Cooney reported on a very successful EAB conference with 140 people attending, and excellent programs and breakout sessions. Ms. Brown, who attended the morning sessions, concurred.

Ms. Oyama-Miller and Mr. Heim arrived at 10:32 a.m. and 10:36 a.m., respectively.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Madelung expressed concern about the possibility of cash raids on the student protection fund given the state's financial troubles. Mr. Dies addressed the issue by summarizing the fund's present status. Mr. Dies indicated that the EAB is very close to reaching the \$1M cap as specified in state statute. He informed the board about the similarities between the student protection fund and other state funds that are intended for a specific purpose. He referenced the patient compensation fund to which physicians pay that is used to cover certain medial liability claims. That fund was raided and a lawsuit is before the state Supreme Court. The EAB is monitoring the outcome of that case because it will establish a precedent that could have implications on the student protection fund. Mr. Dies further provided the board with a summary of the fund's history.

Ms. Williams arrived at 10:47 a.m.

BOARD STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dies highlighted several items related to the EAB's strategic goals.

Involvement in Postsecondary Education Policy Decisions

Mr. Dies reported on a legislative initiative to create a statewide longitudinal student data system, which would allow Wisconsin to apply for competitive grants authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. (ARRA)

Positive Working Relationships and Alliances

Mr. Dies noted that a summary of the approved schools conference had already been provided, but added that the sessions and information shared during the conference could be accessed from the EAB's website for those who could not attend. Next year's conference is scheduled for November 18, 2010.

Operational/Administrative Procedures and Policies

Mr. Dies noted that Joan Fitzgerald of the EAB staff was retiring after 31 years of service to the state of Wisconsin. Efforts to fill the position have started, and the EAB received approval from the Department of Administration to proceed.

SCHOOL APPROVAL ISSUES

A discussion took place about student complaints. Mr. Dies indicated that complaints are an indicator that a particular school may be having issues. He addressed current issues involving Everest College, High-Tech Institute, and Fielding Graduate University.

A motion (Brown, Heim) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of September 23 through December 10, 2009, was approved unanimously.

In further discussion, Mr. Craney expressed concern about the large number of programs being approved and the possibility of market saturation. Mr. Dies responded that every school must demonstrate to the EAB it has performed an analysis of the market and provide evidence the school and its programs are sustainable.

RENEWAL FEE MULTIPLIER

By rule, the EAB is required to establish the renewal fee multiplier equal to the percentage of all schools' total AGASR needed to equal the cost of the EAB's regulatory functions, less revenue from all other fees. Mr. Dies provided the board with a historical summary for the renewal fee multiplier and other assumptions used to come up with the recommendation for the 2010 and 2011 multipliers. After comments and discussion, a motion (Brown, Heim) to set the multiplier at 1.4932 for 2010 and at 1.5042 for 2011 was adopted unanimously.

2010 BOARD MEETINGS

Following a brief discussion about the proposed dates, the board directed Mr. Dies to provide various options to board members via email and set the 2010 meeting schedule based on the best dates.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Oyama-Miller, Heim) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 11:38 p.m.