

EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 15, 2010
10:30 a.m.

Eighth 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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Dies and Blanca James, EAB; Mark Sullivan, Everest College - Milwaukee; Jeryl Fleck, Globe University - Green Bay; Adam Smrcka; Globe University - Wausau; Rachelle Perotto and Mark Szolyga, Sanford-Brown College; Fritz Oppenlander, Upper Iowa University

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Michael Cooney, called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. It was noted that the agenda's Next Meeting date was incorrect and the next board meeting would be on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. A motion (Oyama-Miller, Heim) to approve the March 10, 2010 board meeting minutes was adopted unanimously.

BOARD CHAIR'S REMARKS

Mr. Cooney remarked on the EAB's participation at the recent NASASPS annual conference held in St. Paul, Minnesota. He noted that Mr. Dies, as president of NASASPS, did an outstanding job putting together this year's conference. Mr. Cooney addressed the comments made by Robert Shireman, Deputy Undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Education, which generated controversial reactions from accreditors and challenged state regulators' role in the for-profit postsecondary sector.

Mr. Cooney also provided board members with a brief summary about the proposed rules recently announced by the Department of Education, explained the controversy over the provision on gainful employment, and noted the upcoming Congressional hearings over concerns about quality and growth in the for-profit sector.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Cooney opened the floor for public comments. Mark Sullivan, Everest College, addressed on their presence in Milwaukee; and Mark Szolyga, Sanford Brown – Milwaukee commented on ACICS' accreditation.

BOARD STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dies highlighted items provided in the board materials based on the EAB's respective strategic goals.

Involvement in Postsecondary Education Policy Decisions

Mr. Dies noted two bills were signed into law by the Governor: The Education Tax Credit (2009 Wisconsin Act 265) and Massage Therapy (2009 Wisconsin Act 355). Both of these bills are summarized in the board materials. He informed board members of a special meeting being hosted by the EAB with the massage therapy schools in early August to discussed implementation of the new law.

Positive Working Relationships and Alliances

Mr. Dies informed the board of his presentation to members of the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association about the EAB's role in overseeing the for-profit sector of postsecondary education.

Mr. Dies briefly described other activities pertaining to the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Council for Independent Education, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Consumer Protection

Mr. Dies reported that the Governor had recently signed the diploma mill legislation, with which the EAB had been very involved, into law (2009 Wisconsin Act 300). Under provisions of the new law, it is now a crime for a person to manufacture or issue a false academic credential or to knowingly use or claim to have a false academic credential. The new law also protects the terms "college," "university," and "Wisconsin" in the name of postsecondary schools.

Postsecondary Educational Choices (Public Awareness & Understanding)

Mr. Dies highlighted the media's interest on the closure of ComputerTraining.edu and mentioned being interviewed by the media as a result of Mr. Shireman's controversial presentation at the NASASPS conference.

Operational/Administrative Procedures and Policies

Mr. Dies informed board members that after months of working to fill the vacant school administration consultant position, Zachary Galin had accepted an offer from the EAB. Most recently Mr. Galin was a middle-school teacher from New York City and will start on July 6.

SCHOOL APPROVAL ISSUES

Mr. Dies provide an update on the teach-out for 26 students from ComputerTraining.edu and the progress of students. He mentioned the EAB was exploring the possibility of trying to recover student protection funding used to arrange the teach-out with Department of Justice.

After board discussion about the number of schools and programs being approved, a motion (Raemisch, Oyama-Miller) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of March 3 through June 8, 2010 was approved unanimously.

2011-13 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Mr. Dies informed the board of the EAB's budgetary needs. Although the state's fiscal conditions have not improved, the EAB's needs have increased. With over 160 schools to oversee, additional staff is needed. In addition, the EAB is asking to restore its operating budget to that of previous years. A summary, background, discussion, budget proposal, and recommendation are provided in the board's materials.

A motion (Williams, Oyama-Miller) to approve the 2011-13 Biennial Budget as recommended by staff was approved unanimously. It was noted by Mr. Raemisch that while he supported the motion, that could change in the future depending on the budget instructions ultimately issued by the Department of Administration.

MOTION TO CONVENE A CLOSED SESSION

A motion (Oyama-Miller, Raemisch) to hold a closed session under s.19.85 (1) (c), *Wis. Stats.*, to consider the performance and compensation of the executive secretary in accordance with s.38.50 (5), *Wis. Stats.* was approved 7-0 at 11:55 a.m.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The board reconvened in open session at 12:20 p.m.

Ms. Brown and Mr. Raemisch left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

After some brief comments and discussion, a motion (Heim, Williams) to adopt the PPD report for the executive secretary compiled by the board chair with a performance rating of exceptional was adopted 5-0 at 12:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Oyama-Miller, Craney) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 12:25 p.m.