

September 15, 2010
11:30 a.m.

Globe University – Eau Claire Campus
4955 Bullis Farm Road
Eau Claire, WI 54702

Members Present: Michael Cooney, Terry Craney, Joe Heim, and Monica Williams

Members Absent: Christy L. Brown, Jo Oyama-Miller, and Rick F. Raemisch

Others Present: David Dies, Zachary Galin, and Blanca James, EAB; Jennet Davenport, DeVry University - Wisconsin; Shana Weiss, Globe Education Network; Kimberly Stevens, Globe University – Appleton; Claire Roder, Globe University – Eau Claire; Melanie Schopp and Dave Tracy, Globe University – La Crosse; Scott Borley, Nate Orpen, and Sue Williams, Rasmusen College; Mike Rogowski, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek SC

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Michael Cooney, called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. A motion (Heim, Williams) to approve the June 15, 2010 board meeting minutes was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Cooney thanked Globe University – Eau Claire for hosting the meeting and the EAB board, staff, and public introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

The board stood informal as Shana Weiss, Regional Director, Globe Education Network introduced herself and led a tour of the facilities. The tour concluded at 12:45 p.m. followed by lunch. Official business resumed at 1:15 p.m.

BOARD STATUS REPORT

Mr. Cooney summarized recent activity taking place at the federal level regarding for-profit schools, including the release of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report and a series of Congressional hearings. He suggested that not having quantitative data or data that is reliable; and needing confirmation on gainful employment seem to be what's driving the heightened attention these schools are receiving.

BOARD STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dies commented on the attention the for-profit sector has been receiving and the role states play in regulating the for-profit schools. Mr. Dies inquired as to what, if any, response or action the EAB should pursue with schools it approves. While the EAB has rules that

address misleading or deceiving students, it lacks the capacity to engage the type of auditing activity the GAO conducted. He also expressed concern that such activity would alter the relationship between the schools and the EAB.

Mr. Dies noted that while the EAB has been very progressive in the way it performs its compliance and consumer protection responsibilities, the staffing and funding limitations imposed on the agency present a regulatory challenge. Mr. Dies said that the current concerns may provide an opportunity for the EAB to pursue regulatory changes that have been previously proposed.

Following considerable discussion, Mr. Cooney suggested the board authorize the EAB executive committee to meet and consider the matter further, developing an operational plan to implement other methods of verification. It was also suggested that schools be allowed to provide feedback and explain specific efforts they are taking to prevent such questionable practices from occurring.

The board elected to consider a motion regarding this matter in the School Approval Issues portion of the meeting.

SCHOOL APPROVAL ISSUES

Following a brief discussion about recent school approval activity, a motion (Heim, Craney) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of June 9 through September 10, 2010 was approved unanimously.

A motion (Craney, Williams) to authorize the Executive Committee to meet and to develop an operational plan to implement other methods of verification by the December 15, 2010 meeting was approved unanimously.

2011-13 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Cooney noted that the request contained new positions for an attorney, a program/policy analyst, an office associate, and a consumer protection investigator.

A motion (Heim, Williams) to approve the three 2011-13 Budget Request DINs 4004, 4005, and 4006 was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion (Heim, Williams) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 1:50 p.m.