

# EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 12, 2012  
10:30 a.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room  
201 West Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI

**Members Present:** Michael Cooney, Terry L. Craney (via teleconference), Joe Heim, Don Madelung, Monica Williams

**Members Absent:** Jo Oyama-Miller

**Others Present:** David Dies, Zachary Galin, Linda Heidtman, Blanca James, Patrick Sweeney, *Educational Approval Board*; Alison Struve, *Mueller Communications*; Kristin Melby, *Rasmussen College*; Julie Parker, Marshall Whitlock, *Upper Iowa University*

The chair of the Educational Approval Board (EAB), Michael Cooney, called the meeting to order at 10:44 a.m. A motion (Madelung, Williams) to approve the board meeting minutes of June 6, 2012 was adopted unanimously.

## BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Cooney reported on his attendance at the APSCU trade association in Las Vegas and the feeling of uncertainty about the sector; and the number of different governmental – federal and state – agencies looking at the sector and seeing what they can find. He stated this uncertainty is a concern and is likely something we will be seeing in the future.

Mr. Craney joined in via teleconference at 11:00 a.m.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## BOARD STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dies identified several items contained on the board status report. He indicated that the entire board status report can be found in the materials provided and on the EAB's website.

State Authorization – Mr. Dies noted that the U.S. Department of Education issued further guidance on the program integrity regulations addressing state authorization. Although provisions found in Section 600.9(a) of the Higher Education Act will not be enforced, institutions continue to be responsible for complying with all state laws as they relate to distance learning.

Harkin Report Summary – Mr. Cooney strongly recommended for the board to take a look at the summary, which gives a concise analysis of the report’s major points.

EAB Approved Schools Conference – Mr. Cooney strongly encouraged board members to attend the approved schools conference on November 15, which will focus on the EAB’s move towards establishing standards for completion and placement and have top notch speakers.

Website Enhancements – Mr. Dies demonstrated the improved school and program search features of the EAB’s website, which provides a link between programmatic and occupational information for each program that a school is approved to offer.

Increased Position/Expenditure Authority – Mr. Dies announced that the EAB’s emergency request for increased position and expenditure authority was recently approved. The EAB is currently moving forward with developing position descriptions and the hiring process.

## **SCHOOL APPROVAL ISSUES**

Mr. Dies summarized the school approval actions taken by staff. He briefed the board on changes in leadership and the issues with student retention and placement at Everest College – Milwaukee. He indicated that the EAB had taken aggressive action and suspended new enrollment. After several meetings with officials from the school’s corporate parent, the EAB negotiated a settlement in which the school will commence a teach-out. In addition, the school will forgive the debt for all students who failed to complete the program, including any new students among those currently enrolled who drop out. Mr. Dies also mentioned Sanford-Brown and TechSkills, which are also closing their campuses and are conducting teach-outs.

A motion (Heim, Madelung) to approve items A through I of the School Activity Report for the period of September 6 through December 4, 2012, was approved unanimously.

## **2013-15 BUDGET REQUEST**

Mr. Dies summarized the requirement that state agencies submit their 2013-15 biennial budget requests to the Department of Administration (DOA) by September 15. Given the EAB’s administrative attachment, its budget request will be submitted through the WTCSB. He went on to describe two Decision Item Narratives (DINs) that have been prepared for submission – a technical adjustment related to the recently approved position and expenditure authority and a request for legal services.

In response to a question from Mr. Madelung about the fiscal impact on schools, Mr. Dies explained that the impact would be approximately 10 cents per \$1,000 of revenue generated by the school. Mr. Dies added that the request reflects items that have been previously approved by the board.

Mr. Heim suggested a clearer description of the functions and needs for the part-time attorney position in view that it may be a difficult to fill position. Mr. Dies noted that this would occur when a formal position description is developed.

A motion (Williams, Craney) to approve the budget DINs as presented was approved unanimously. Following the vote, Mr. Madelung requested that he be recorded as voting no on the previous motion since there was no cost breakdown on what it is going to cost the institutions.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REVIEW PROJECT PLAN**

Mr. Dies provided a summary of the Administrative Rules Review Project Plan, which requires certain state agencies to develop a plan regarding efforts to complete a review of its administrative rules that affect small businesses. After a discussion about the involvement required of the board as the rule making process proceeds, a motion (Heim, Williams) to approve the Plan was approved unanimously.

### **PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Mr. Cooney noted that the matter before the board was whether to endorse an effort to move forward with developing performance standards, not be adopting standards. Mr. Dies made it clear that the board will be using an existing rule provision to establish performance standards. He noted that this step is the beginning of a process and that the conference would be used to engage institutions in the discussion.

A motion (Heim, Craney) to endorse the EAB's effort to establish minimum standards for student program completion and graduate placement in employment rates was approved 4 – 0, with one abstention.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion (Madelung, Craney) to adjourn was unanimously approved at 11:58 p.m.