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PLANNING, RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
9:10 a.m.

Louisiana Purchase Room • Claiborne Building • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 1. Initial Licenses
 - a. Post University
 - b. Savannah College of Art and Design
 2. License Renewals
 - a. Michigan State University
 - b. Northcentral University
 - c. Texas Christian University
 - d. University of Wyoming
- IV. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)
 - A. Institution Applications
 1. Louisiana State University - Alexandria
 2. University of Louisiana - Lafayette
 3. University of Louisiana - Monroe
- V. GRAD Act
 - A. Request to Amend Data Submission – Louisiana Delta Community College
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

Committee Members: Joel Dupré, Chair; William Fenstermaker, Vice Chair; Mark Abraham, Claudia Adley, Raymond Brandt, Joseph Farr, Robert Levy, Gray Stream

Agenda Item III.A.1.a.

Post University Waterbury, Connecticut

BACKGROUND

Post University (Post) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private university in the state of Connecticut and is seeking its initial license. Founded as the Mattoon Shorthand School in 1890 and changing its name four times before 1960, Post became a four-year institution in 1976 and received its current name in 1996. Today, Post has undergraduate and graduate programs in four schools (Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Public Service). Post is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of higher education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Post offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs. Typically, the online nature of its programs would not require licensure. However, it is proposing to offer six programs which include practicum requirements: A.S in Early Childhood Education, B.S. in Child studies, B.S. in Sports Management, B.S. in Emergency Management and Homeland Security, B.S. in Human Services and an M.S. in Human Services.

FACULTY

Post employs 94 faculty to support the six programs being proposed. Of the 94 faculty, 36 are trained at the doctoral level, 59 are trained at the masters level and nine are employed on a full-time basis.

FACILITIES

Since Post operates programs online with administrative and academic support in Waterbury, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Depending on the academic program, students will complete clinical experiences at various locations in Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the college's and academic programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents issue an initial operating license to Post University, located in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Agenda Item III.A.1.b.

Savannah College of Art and Design Savannah, Georgia

BACKGROUND

Savannah College of Art and Design (Savannah) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private institution in the state of Georgia and is seeking its initial license. Savannah was founded in 1978 to create a specialized professional art college and continues today to serve that mission. Savannah is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Savannah offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs in arts-related areas. Typically, the online nature of its programs would not require licensure. However, it is proposing to offer a number of programs which require credit-bearing internships. Therefore, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Savannah employs 128 faculty to support its online degree programs being proposed. Of the 128 faculty, 39 are trained at the doctoral level and 92 are employed on a full-time basis.

FACILITIES

Since Savannah operates programs online with administrative and academic support in Savannah, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Depending on the academic program, students will complete internship experiences at various locations in Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the college's and academic programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents issue an initial operating license to Savannah College of Art and Design, located in Savannah, Georgia.

Agenda Item III.A.2.a.

Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan

BACKGROUND

Michigan State University (MSU) is not incorporated in the state of Louisiana. The institution, founded in 1855, is a publically-supported doctoral research university in East Lansing, Michigan. MSU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

As a publically-supported doctoral research university, MSU offers a wide range of online degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Since a number of its online education and health-related programs require clinical experiences, MSU is subject to Louisiana licensure.

FACULTY

MSU employs 35 faculty to support its academic programs with clinical components available in Louisiana. All of the 35 faculty are employed full time and 29 are trained at the doctoral level.

FACILITIES

Since MSU operates programs online with administrative and academic support in East Lansing, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Depending on the program, students will complete clinical experiences at various locations in Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's and programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus in East Lansing, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents accept the Michigan State University's application for license renewal.

Agenda Item III.A.2.b.

Northcentral University Prescott Valley, Arizona

BACKGROUND

Northcentral University (Northcentral) is not incorporated in the state of Louisiana. The institution is a private for-profit institution in Prescott Valley, Arizona and is seeking license renewal. Northcentral is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Northcentral offers a wide variety of online undergraduate and graduate programs in disciplines related to Business, Education, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Psychology. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since a number of the education and marriage and family therapy programs require internships, field experiences or clinical experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Northcentral employs 534 faculty to support its academic programs, all trained at the doctoral level. One-hundred twenty-five of the faculty are trained at the doctoral level.

FACILITIES

Since Northcentral operates programs online with administrative and academic support in Prescott Valley, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Depending on the program, students will complete clinical experiences at various locations in Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's and programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents accept Northcentral University's application for license renewal.

Agenda Item III.A.2.c.

Texas Christian University Fort Worth, Texas

BACKGROUND

Texas Christian University (TCU) is not incorporated in Louisiana. The university was originally licensed by the Board of Regents in 2005. TCU is a private, non-profit university located in Fort Worth, Texas and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Forty-five faculty teach in Texas Christian University's Nurse Practice and Anesthesia programs, 41 full-time and four part-time. All 45 faculty hold doctoral degrees from regionally accredited institutions. All faculty are recruited, screened, and employed through the central campus in Fort Worth.

FACILITIES

The nursing programs utilize clinical sites in the Lafayette and Baton Rouge areas.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Texas Christian University currently offers Masters and Doctorate Degrees in Nurse Practice and Anesthesia through the institution's Fort Worth facility. The Nursing programs are professionally accredited. Instruction provided in Louisiana is limited to practicum experiences. Admission to the program is selective. Students receive instruction in a lecture format through videoconferencing and through supervised clinical experiences.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the admission standards of the program, the institution's available facilities, its institutional and program accreditation, and the oversight provided by the main campus, senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents accept Texas Christian University's application for license renewal.

Agenda Item III.A.2.d.

University of Wyoming Laramie, Wyoming

BACKGROUND

The University of Wyoming (Wyoming) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a public comprehensive university in the state of Wyoming and is seeking license renewal. Founded in 1886, Wyoming is the state's land grant flagship university and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Wyoming offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs, almost all of them online. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since the nursing programs require clinical/internship experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Wyoming employs 790 faculty to support its online programs in Louisiana. Seven-hundred forty-seven are employed full time and 614 are trained at the doctorate level.

FACILITIES

Since Wyoming operates programs online with administrative and academic support in Laramie, Wyoming, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Depending on the program, students will complete clinical experiences at various locations in Louisiana.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the college's and academic programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents accept the University of Wyoming's application for license renewal.

Agenda Item IV.A.

Executive Summary

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a national initiative which seeks to establish comparable national standards for the interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by institutions based in another state by reducing the cost and administrative burden on institutions seeking authorization in various states. SARA is a voluntary agreement among regional compacts (SREB, NEBHE, MHEC, and WICHE) and member states. Each member state approves their in-state institutions on an annual basis for SARA participation. Once approved, SARA member institutions may offer distance education programs in other SARA member states without additional authorization. Membership is open to accredited, degree-granting institutions from all sectors of postsecondary education (proprietary, public, private) and is voluntary.

Act 13 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature authorized the Louisiana Board of Regents to seek SARA membership on behalf of the State of Louisiana. In October 2014, Louisiana's application for SARA membership was approved by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA), effective December 1, 2014.

Four postsecondary institutions domiciled in Louisiana (Louisiana State University A&M, McNeese State University, Northwestern State University and Our Lady of Holy Cross College) had their applications for institutional participation in SARA approved by the Board of Regents in March 2015. Since that time Louisiana State University - Alexandria, University of Louisiana - Lafayette and University of Louisiana - Monroe have submitted applications for Regents' consideration. Regents' staff has reviewed the applications and determined that they meet all requirements for participation in SARA.

Senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research & Performance Committee approve the Application for Institutional Participation in SARA for Louisiana State University – Alexandria, University of Louisiana - Lafayette and University of Louisiana – Monroe, and authorize staff to submit the approved applications to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

Agenda Item V.A.

Executive Summary

The GRAD Act requires the Board of Regents to compile increasing amounts of data and to design and implement data systems for campus use in preparing GRAD Act annual reports to the Board. These same systems are utilized by Regents' staff in grading the annual reports. As expected, the potential impacts of passing/failing GRAD Act have elevated the importance of accurate data reporting. Since the inception of GRAD Act reporting, the number of requests for data corrections/resubmissions has accelerated.

Every time there is such a request for resubmission, multiple Regents' systems are impacted and, depending on the nature of the request, the Board's IT staff must devote days/weeks to rebuild the respective files and recompile the various data and reports. This not only impacts the campus making the requests, but all campuses as they await receipt of Regents' reports to prepare GRAD Act annual reports.

During the first two years of GRAD Act, primarily due to the potential impacts of failing to pass GRAD Act, campuses made a variety of requests to resubmit data files, some covering multiple years. This made it most difficult to meet the deadlines established either in the GRAD Act Agreements or the GRAD Act law. In response, a March 15th deadline was established for data corrections/resubmissions related to GRAD Act. Any request made after the deadline would have to be brought to the Board for approval. This practice was implemented in part to relay to the campuses and systems the importance of meeting the deadlines so that the necessary GRAD Act data would be available in a timely fashion for campus and Board use.

Generally speaking, the established deadline has been honored and the requests following the deadline have been minimal. This makes those special requests more manageable. This year, Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) was unable to complete and submit to the Regents' staff corrections to its data files prior to the March 15th deadline for Year 5 GRAD Act reporting. In order to remain faithful to the late data submission policy, LDCC has been invited to appear before the Planning, Research and Performance Committee to explain to the Committee background on its data issues, steps taken to address the issues, and, most importantly, plans going forward to minimize such occurrences in the future.

The senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research and Performance Committee approve the request from Louisiana Delta Community College to submit data corrections to its Statewide Student Profile System and Completers files to more accurately reflect its performance in the Year 5 GRAD Act Annual Report. If the request is approved, Regents' auditors will review and verify all data corrections.