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AGENDA

PLANNING, RESEARCH and PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 24, 2017 • 10:45 a.m.

Louisiana Purchase Room, W.C.C. Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge, LA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - A. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 1. Initial Licenses
 - a. Touro University
 2. License Renewals
 - a. Bellevue University
 - b. Brandman University
 - B. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Institutional Renewal
 1. Louisiana State University
 2. McNeese State University
 3. Northwestern State University
 4. University of Holy Cross
- IV. State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) Institutional Application
 - A. Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – Shreveport
- V. Final Staff Draft of Board of Regents' Response to Act 619 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature
- VI. Other Business
 - A. Accrediting Council on Independent Colleges and Schools (Information Item)
- VII. Adjournment

Committee Members: Collis Temple III, Chair; Claudia Adley, Vice Chair; Blake David, Thomas Henning, Robert Levy, Roy Martin III, Charles McDonald, Jacqueline Wyatt

Agenda Item III.A.1.a.

Touro University Henderson, Nevada

BACKGROUND

Touro University (Touro) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The private university is located in Henderson, Nevada, a suburb of Las Vegas. Touro is part of the Touro College and University System originally established in New York City. The institution derives its name from Judah and Isaac Touro, Jewish brothers and leaders of Colonial America. Today, Touro follows its Judaic foundations. The System has campuses in New York, California, and Nevada. The Nevada campus has two colleges: Osteopathic Medicine and Health and Human Services. Touro is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Touro is proposing to offer its online Master of Science in Camp Administration & Leadership available to Louisiana residents. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since the Camp Administration program requires a six-credit practicum, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Touro employs three faculty to support its online Camp Administration program available to Louisiana residents. Of the three faculty, one is employed full-time and all are trained at the masters level.

FACILITIES

Since Touro operates its programs online with administrative and academic support in Henderson, Nevada, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete practicum experiences at various camp locations within the State.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of the college's faculty, its campus accreditation, the limited scope of offerings, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Touro University, located in Henderson, Nevada.

Agenda Item III.A.2.a.

Bellevue University Bellevue, Nebraska

BACKGROUND

Bellevue University (Bellevue) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The private non-profit institution was founded in 1966 as Bellevue College and became Bellevue University in 1994. Today, Bellevue serves approximately 10,000 students at ten locations in three states and everywhere online. Bellevue is headquartered in Bellevue, Nebraska and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Bellevue offers sixteen online bachelors programs and ten online masters programs, primarily in business-oriented areas. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of these programs require clinical experiences, licensure is necessary. Bellevue reported 36 Louisiana residents enrolled in the online programs in fall 2016.

FACULTY

Bellevue employs 57 faculty to support its online programs available to Louisiana residents, 21 on a full-time basis. Sixteen of the 57 faculty are trained at the doctoral level from accredited institutions, while the balance are trained at the masters level.

FACILITIES

Since Bellevue operates its programs online with administrative and academic support in Bellevue, Nebraska, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Students complete clinical experiences at various locations within the State.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the college's and programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the application for license renewal for Bellevue University, located in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Agenda Item III.A.2.b.

Brandman University Irvine, California

BACKGROUND

Brandman University (Brandman) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The private non-profit institution was founded in 1958 as part of Chapman University and today remains part of the Chapman University System. Brandman has 26 campus locations in California and Washington, operates on 6 military installations, provides education programs online and is seeking license renewal. Brandman enrolls approximately 12,000 students, is headquartered in Irvine, California and is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Brandman offers online baccalaureate degrees in applied studies and social work to Louisiana residents. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since the social work program requires clinical experiences, licensure is necessary. Brandman reported four Louisiana residents enrolled in these programs in fall 2016.

FACULTY

Brandman employs 36 faculty to support its online programs available to Louisiana residents, eight on a full-time basis. Twenty-five of the 36 faculty are trained at the doctoral level from accredited institutions, while the other have masters degrees.

FACILITIES

Since Brandman operates its programs online with administrative and academic support in Irvine, California, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete clinical experiences at various locations within the State.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the college's and programs' accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the application for license renewal for Brandman University, located in Irvine, California.

Agenda Item III.B.

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. Institutions approved by their home state are required to renew their membership annually.

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. Since then, 18 Louisiana institutions have joined SARA.

Four institutions (Louisiana State University A&M, McNeese State University, Northwestern State University, and University of Holy Cross) have submitted renewal applications. Regents' staff have reviewed the renewal applications and determined that they meet all requirements for continuing their membership in SARA.

Senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research & Performance Committee approve the Renewal Application for Institutional Participation in SARA for Louisiana State University A&M, McNeese State University, Northwestern State University, and University of Holy Cross, and authorize staff to submit the approved applications to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

Agenda Item IV.

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. SARA makes 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.

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.

To date, the Board of Regents has approved applications for institutional participation in SARA from 18 institutions. In January, 2017 Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport submitted an application for Regents' consideration. Regents' staff have reviewed and determined that it meets all requirements for membership in SARA.

Senior staff recommends that the Planning, Research & Performance Committee approve the Initial Application for Institutional Participation in SARA for Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, and authorize staff to submit the approved application to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

Agenda Item V.

Executive Summary

The Board voted to receive the initial staff draft of the Response to Act 619 of the 2016 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature at its meeting on January 9th and sought public comment on the staff draft through February 7th. Approximately seventy comments from parents, students, legislators, government groups, board members, campuses, and management boards had been received by the Board during the public comment period.

Based on the public comment and further discussions with staff and Board members, the Regents' staff has incorporated numerous revisions to the original staff draft. The final staff draft scheduled for Board consideration at its meeting on February 24th will be posted later today. There will be two versions of the Final Staff Draft. One version will display every change made to the first Staff Draft with deletions being ~~struck out~~ and new language appearing in red. The second version represents the Final Staff Draft with all changes incorporated.

Agenda Item VI.

Executive Summary

In September 2016, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) declared its intent to withdraw recognition of the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) as a recognized accrediting body. Following a series of appeals as allowed by USDOE regulations, the Secretary made his final determination to withdraw recognition in December 2016.

The Board of Regents' (BOR) Rules and Regulations governing the administration of R.S. 17:1808 require that licensed postsecondary academic degree-granting institutions hold recognized accreditation in order to operate in Louisiana. Louisiana's Proprietary Schools Law governing licensing postsecondary trade, technical, and business vocational/technical schools does not require recognized accreditation unless the institution offers non-academic Associate in Occupational Studies degree programs.

At the time of loss of recognition, there were two postsecondary academic degree-granting institutions accredited through ACICS licensed to operate in Louisiana: Louisiana Culinary Institute (LCI) and Virginia College. LCI has informed the BOR of its discontinuation of the bachelors program and its intention to withdraw its license. USDOE allows institutions that have held accreditation with an agency that has lost its recognition to sign a Provisional Program Participation Agreement (PPPA) with USDOE to maintain eligibility to participate in Title IV programs for up to 18 months while they seek recognition with another accrediting body. Virginia College has submitted a copy of their signed PPPA with USDOE and is actively seeking accreditation with another recognized entity.

Six licensed proprietary schools in Louisiana held accreditation with ACICS. All six are seeking alternative accreditation and have submitted copies of signed PPPAs that were submitted to USDOE. It is our understanding that each school will continue to have the accreditation designation during the next 18 month period if it complies with USDOE's conditions.