

Agenda Item VI.F.1.a.i.

Central Michigan University Mount Pleasant, Michigan

BACKGROUND

Central Michigan University (CMU) is not incorporated in Louisiana and was initially licensed by the Board of Regents in 1993. The institution is a publicly-supported university headquartered in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and provides educational services to military personnel throughout the United States, including Fort Polk, Louisiana. CMU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

CMU offers a Master of Science degree in Administration with concentrations in General Administration, Human Resources Administration, Health Services Administration and Leadership. Students receive classroom lecture instruction structured primarily around military/government schedules and activities.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

The institution reports six faculty supporting its Ft. Polk campus programs, all employed part-time and trained at the doctoral level. All faculty are recruited, screened, and employed through the home campus in Mt. Pleasant. The institution reported an unduplicated headcount of 37 Louisiana students enrolled in its masters programs in fall 2017.

FACILITIES

Facilities include numerous classrooms, an administrative office, computer laboratory, and a base library at Fort Polk which offers students access to library resources housed at Central Michigan's campus in Mt. Pleasant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the admission standards of the program, the institution's regional accreditation, and the oversight provided by the main campus, senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the application for license renewal from Central Michigan University, located in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Agenda Item VI.F.1.a.ii.

University of Phoenix Baton Rouge and Metairie, Louisiana

BACKGROUND

The University of Phoenix (Phoenix) is not incorporated in Louisiana. The institution was initially licensed by the Board of Regents in 1995. Phoenix is a private, for-profit university located in Tempe, Arizona and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Phoenix offers a number of undergraduate and graduate certificates, 34 bachelor's degrees in business and related areas, biological sciences, health administration, nursing, communication, criminal justice, history, psychology, and information technology and 10 master's degrees in business and related areas, health administration and related areas, public administration, psychology, nursing, and information systems. Instruction is offered through classroom lecture and laboratory exercises, as well as independent study.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

Currently, Phoenix employs three faculty members to support its Louisiana programs, one on a full-time basis. One of the faculty holds a doctorate while the remaining two hold masters degrees. Phoenix reported an unduplicated headcount enrollment in 2017 of 19 undergraduate students in Louisiana and no graduate students.

FACILITIES

Phoenix leases office and classroom space facilities on One Galleria Blvd. in Metairie and Acadian Thruway in Baton Rouge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the limited scope of the University of Phoenix's activities, its classroom and laboratory-based instruction, the credentials of its faculty, and its regional accreditation, senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the University of Phoenix's application for license renewal, in keeping with the institution's operations in Louisiana.

Agenda Item VI.F.1.a.iii.

University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences San Marcos, California

BACKGROUND

The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (St. Augustine) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The university is a private institution located in San Marcos, California and was first licensed in 2011. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

St. Augustine offers a variety of online masters and doctorate programs in health-related fields (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, Health Sciences). The Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy programs hold professional accreditation. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since many of the programs require clinical rotations or field experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

St. Augustine employs 191 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Of the 191 faculty, 104 are employed on a full-time basis and 151 are trained at the doctoral level. St. Augustine reported ten Louisiana students in its doctoral programs and two in its masters programs in 2017.

FACILITIES

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the scope of the programs, the credentials of its faculty, the college's campus and program accreditation, and the general oversight by the home campus, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve license renewal for the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, located in San Marcos, California.

Agenda Item VI.F.1.a.iv.

**William Carey University
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

BACKGROUND

William Carey University (WCU) first registered with the Board of Regents in 1979. The institution is headquartered in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and offers its RN-BSN program in New Orleans. The institution is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

William Carey University currently offers an RN to BSN in New Orleans. The RN-BSN is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

The university's School of Nursing employs two faculty members to support the Louisiana residents in its RN-BSN program. Both are employed on a full-time basis and hold doctoral degrees. The institution reported an enrollment of 59 Louisiana students in its nursing program.

FACILITIES

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, WCU leased space from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for administrative and instructional purposes. Following the storm, the program relocated twice to other space in New Orleans. Currently, WCU leases space from Delgado Community College at its Charity School of Nursing in New Orleans.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the institution's and academic 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 from William Carey University, located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Agenda Item VI.F.2.a

Atlantic Business School Inc. New Orleans, Louisiana

Background

Revised Statute 17:1808 requires the Board of Regents to register and license academic degree-granting, post-secondary institutions in Louisiana. Regents' rules and regulations overseeing the review process echo the revised statutes with particular emphasis placed on the attainment of appropriate accreditation. The proposed Atlantic Business School Inc. (ABS) has identified the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) as its desired accreditation agency.

Overview of Atlantic Business School

The mission of the proposed institution is:

To offer life changing opportunities to enable students to reach their individual academic and professional goals. Atlantic Business School is committed to provide its educational offerings with high quality and in a way that meets the needs of the students and relevant stakeholders.

Goals established by ABS include:

- *To provide students with a platform for enhancing and developing critical thinking, analytical skills, investigative ability, and innovative problem-solving capabilities.*
- *To encourage teamwork and the appreciation of diversity in group settings.*
- *To maintain an institutional assessment program that covers student learning, curriculum delivery and effectiveness, faculty scholarly activity, student services, financial stability, and administrative leadership.*
- *To deliver educational support services that meet student life demands and schedules.*
- *To build within students a value for life-long learning and education.*

Atlantic Business School seeks to accomplish its mission by offering specialized course work in a variety of business disciplines in an individualized, creative online learning environment that incorporates both traditional and innovative instructional techniques. Through acquisition of the body of knowledge presented in each educational program, students learn how to evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in a career environment. ABS strives to enable students to pursue progressive distance educational programs which offer them an interdisciplinary approach to the study of business, administrative disciplines, management and leadership. ABS will create online distance education curricula and offer excellent student services that are designed to provide lifelong learning opportunities for adult students who are underserved by traditional educational institutions.

ABS plans to offer a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Business and Management and a Master of Business Administration (M.B.A) in a distance learning format. A board of directors is in place

along with a senior management team and prospective faculty members have been identified. Individuals engaged in the development of this institution and the degree programs to be offered appear to possess requisite academic/experiential qualifications.

Chronology of Activities Related to Board of Regents' Consideration of the Application

June 2017 – The Board of Regents receives an application for licensure from ABS. The proposed institution indicates that it will seek institutional accreditation through the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

July 2017 – Regents' staff conducts initial assessment of license application and concludes that further assessment by an external consultant thoroughly familiar with DEAC accreditation processes would be beneficial.

August 2017 – Staff engages the services of Ms. Susan Chiaramonte*, President, EduCred Services, to assess ABS's application and associated materials in light of the proposed institution's probability of successful DEAC accreditation. Ms. Chiaramonte submits her formal report relevant to the institution's application for licensure.

September 2017 – The consultant's report is provided to ABS representatives, requesting a formal response to the consultant's report. The Board of Regents receives a detailed response to the external consultant's report from ABS. Staff finds the report to be thorough, addressing all recommendations and suggestions raised by the external reviewer.

Staff Assessment

The staff acknowledges that DEAC accreditation has long been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as an appropriate measure of requisite quality for post-secondary educational institutions in the United States offering degree programs through distance learning technologies. Staff decided that the use of an external consultant with DEAC experience to conduct a mock review of ABS's application using DEAC accreditation standards would be a useful diagnostic tool both for the Regents and for the proposed institution.

ABS's initial application materials were reviewed by staff and by the external consultant, Ms. Susan Chiaramonte. Findings and opinions were provided by Ms. Chiaramonte as well as the identification of areas in which ABS would need to show documentary evidence of potential compliance with DEAC standards and policies. She pinpointed steps that should be implemented prior to enrolling students as well as identified specific requirements to achieve accreditation through DEAC.

In its revised application, the ABS management team demonstrated familiarization with DEAC accreditation standards. ABS's revised application more directly addressed the DEAC

**Ms. Chiaramonte's higher education experience, accreditation, and compliance knowledge was viewed as beneficial to the evaluation process. She regularly participates in evaluations of higher education institutions and continues to serve as Chair and Educational Standards Evaluator for onsite visits for DEAC.*

accreditation standards and was augmented by a series of supporting documents including a revised mission statement, updated catalog, and proposed timeline for fully developing its academic programs, implementing the appropriate administrative structure and student policies.

While BoR staff is unable to determine whether this proposed institution will satisfy DEAC candidacy expectations, the institution is in a better position to make its case. At the same time, the staff cautions that much of what has been developed and submitted by ABS so far supports only a theoretical institution – what is outlined on paper may not translate effectively or efficiently into practice. DEAC assesses ongoing operations of institutions, not proposals for state licensure.

The additional information provided by ABS in September adequately responded to areas of concerns as identified by DEAC consultant. ABS representatives have a clear knowledge and understanding of DEAC standards and comprehend what is required to comply with said standards. While BoR staff cannot determine whether documentation provided by ABS will satisfy DEAC candidacy expectations, the institution appears to be in a good position to move forward with the accreditation process.

Staff Conclusion

The staff concludes that Atlantic Business School merits a limited period of state licensure to allow it sufficient time to seek DEAC candidacy and accreditation. This initial period of licensure, however, is subject to the fulfillment of several stipulations, requiring step-by-step continuous evidence of progress toward accreditation. The motion and stipulations below are designed to ensure that ABS operates within Louisiana only as long as there is evidence that the institution is making reasonable progress towards accreditation.

Staff Recommendation

1. The Board of Regents hereby grants initial licensure for Atlantic Business School for a period of three years.
2. By November 1, 2018 and on that date every year thereafter during the term of initial licensure, the institution shall report to the Deputy Commissioner for Planning, Research and Academic Affairs the status of its progress toward preparation and submittal of an application for accreditation candidacy through DEAC.
3. At the end of this period of initial licensure, the institution shall provide evidence of submittal of an application for DEAC candidacy. If accomplished, the Regents will consider another eighteen months of licensure. If not accomplished, the Regents will consider denial of further licensure.
4. Within one year of submittal of an application for DEAC candidacy, the institution shall provide evidence of successful DEAC candidacy status. If granted, the Regents will consider extending licensure to allow for final accreditation review. If not accomplished, the Regents will consider denial of further licensure.

5. Upon termination of the allotted time for final accreditation review, the institution shall report its DEAC membership status. If DEAC accreditation has been granted, the Regents shall consider issuing a regular 2-year operating license. If not granted, the Regents will consider denial of further licensure.