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BOARD OF REGENTS

P. O. Box 3677
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677
Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318
www.regents.la.gov

AGENDA

PLANNING, RESEARCH and PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 23, 2016 • 10:50 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. Campbell University
 - b. National University
 - c. Orion College
 - d. San Joaquin Valley College
 2. License Renewals
 - a. Drexel University
 - b. Eastern Kentucky University
 - c. Southwest University
 - d. University of South Alabama
 - B. Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
 1. Initial Licenses
 - a. Aesthetic Laser Institute, LLC
 - b. Louisiana Medical Certifications, LLC
 - c. New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport
 - d. Workforce Career & Technical College
 2. License Renewals
 - C. SARA Institution Renewals
 1. Louisiana State University - Alexandria
 2. Northwestern State University
- IV. R.S. 17:1808 (Licensure)
 - A. International Health Coach University
- V. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

Committee Members: Claudia Adley, Chair; Joseph Farr, Vice Chair; Raymond Brandt, Thomas Henning, Robert Levy, Gray Stream

Agenda Item III.A.1.a.

Campbell University Buies Creek, North Carolina

BACKGROUND

Campbell University (Campbell) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a Baptist institution in Buies Creek, North Carolina founded in 1887 as Buies Creek Academy by James Archibald Campbell, a Baptist minister. The institution became Campbell Junior College in 1926 and Campbell College in 1961. The institution received its current name in 1979. Today, Campbell enrolls approximately 6,000 students across nearly 100 disciplines. Campbell is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Campbell is proposing to make available to Louisiana residents eight online associate degree programs, ten online baccalaureate programs, and three online master's programs primarily in business, criminal justice, religion, security, and information technology. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of the programs being proposed require internship/practicum experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Campbell employs 102 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Thirty are employed full-time and 64 are trained at the doctoral level.

FACILITIES

Since Campbell operates its program online with administrative and academic support in Buies Creek, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete internship/practicum experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

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 issue an initial operating license to Campbell University, located in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

Agenda Item III.A.1.b.

National University La Jolla, California

BACKGROUND

National University (National) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private institution in La Jolla, California founded in 2001 as an alliance of institutions committed to providing educational opportunities to diverse populations. National is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

National is proposing to make available to Louisiana residents five online associate degree programs, 40 online baccalaureate programs, and 46 online master's programs across a variety of disciplines in the arts, sciences and professions. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of the programs being proposed require internship/practicum experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

National employs 146 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Twenty-eight are employed full-time and 72 are trained at the doctoral level.

FACILITIES

Since National operates its program online with administrative and academic support in La Jolla, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete internship/practicum experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

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 issue an initial operating license to National University, located in La Jolla, California.

Agenda Item III.A.1.c.

Orion College Plantation, Florida

BACKGROUND

Orion College (Orion) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private for-profit college in Plantation, Florida, founded in 2004 as Allied Health Institute and is seeking initial licensure with the Board of Regents. The founders of Allied Health Institute were instrumental in the development and implementation of the first online medical assisting program in the United States. Orion is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Orion is proposing to make available to Louisiana residents online associate degree programs in business administration, healthcare management, medical billing and coding, and medical assisting, and certificate programs in medical assistant and medical coding specialist. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since many of the programs being proposed require internship/practicum experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Orion employs 34 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Four are employed full-time, three are trained at the doctoral level and 22 at the masters level.

FACILITIES

Since Orion operates its program online with administrative and academic support in Plantation, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete internship/practicum experiences at various health-related locations within Louisiana.

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 issue an initial operating license to Orion College, located in Plantation, Florida.

Agenda Item III.A.1.d.

San Joaquin Valley College Visalia, California

BACKGROUND

San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a private junior college in Visalia, California. Founded in 1977, SJVC has thirteen campuses located throughout California (plus an online division) and offers over twenty accelerated certificate and associate of science degree programs. SJVC is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

SJVC is proposing to make available to Louisiana residents five online certificate programs in medical assisting, billing and coding, information technology, business administration, and human resource administration and six associate degree programs in medical assisting, billing and coding, information technology, business administration, human resource administration, and construction management. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of the health-related programs being proposed require internship/practicum experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

SJVC employs 44 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Of the 44 faculty, eight are employed full-time and 37 are trained at the graduate level.

FACILITIES

Since SJVC operates its program online with administrative and academic support in Visalia, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete internship/practicum experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

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 issue an initial operating license to San Joaquin Valley College, located in Visalia, California.

Agenda Item III.A.2.a.

**Drexel University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

BACKGROUND

Drexel University (Drexel) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution traces its roots to 1891 with the establishment of the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry. From those beginnings, Drexel has evolved into a research university with nine colleges and four schools, including schools of medicine and law. Today, Drexel enrolls over 25,000 students with over 5,000 enrolled online. The institution is headquartered in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Drexel offers a wide array of online programs at the certificate, baccalaureate and graduate levels to Louisiana residents in a variety of disciplines. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since some of the programs require clinical experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

Drexel employs 179 faculty to support its online programs available to Louisiana residents, ninety-two on a full-time basis. Seventy-two of the faculty are trained at the doctoral level.

FACILITIES

Since Drexel operates its program online with administrative and academic support in Philadelphia, there are no physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete internship/practicum experiences at various locations within Louisiana.

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 Drexel University, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Agenda Item III.A.2.b.

Eastern Kentucky University Richmond, Kentucky

BACKGROUND

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) is not incorporated in the State of Louisiana. The institution is a publically-supported regional university of approximately 16,500 students founded in 1906 and located on the site of Central University, founded in 1874. EKU is located in Richmond, Kentucky and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

EKU makes available to Louisiana residents 20 online programs at the certificate through doctoral level in a variety of programs in the arts and sciences, healthcare and education. Typically, the online nature of the delivery system would not require licensure. However, since these programs require clinical experiences/internships, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

EKU employs 52 faculty in support of its online programs. However, it reported nine faculty who are directly involved with the clinical/internship aspect of the online programs being proposed for Louisiana. All nine of the faculty hold doctorates and are employed full-time.

FACILITIES

Since EKU operates programs online with administrative and academic support in Richmond, there are no out-of-state physical facilities in Louisiana. Students will complete clinical/internship experiences at various locations within the state.

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 license renewal for Eastern Kentucky University, located in Richmond, Kentucky.

Agenda Item III.A.2.c.

Southwest University Kenner, Louisiana

BACKGROUND

Southwest University first registered with the Board of Regents in 1983. The institution is a privately-supported university headquartered in Kenner, Louisiana. Southwest was initially licensed by the Board of Regents in 2000 and is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Southwest University offers associate degrees in business, criminal justice and general studies; bachelor's degrees in business-related areas and criminal justice; master's degrees in criminal justice and business-related areas; and a few certificate programs. Admission to the programs is selective and students receive instruction exclusively through distance learning.

FACULTY AND STUDENTS

The institution reports one full-time and 28 part-time faculty for its offerings. Nineteen of the faculty hold the doctorate and ten hold the masters degree. The institution reported an unduplicated headcount of 91 students in its masters programs, 166 in its bachelors programs, and twelve in its associate degree programs.

FACILITIES

Southwest University leases approximately 5,000 square feet of space in an office building in Kenner. The space includes a reception area, business records office, five private offices, a conference room, a file and copy center, student service area, course resource area, a record storage room and a supply area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given the credentials of its faculty, the admissions standards of the program, the limited number of academic programs, and the institution's DEAC accreditation, senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the application for license renewal for Southwest University, located in Kenner, Louisiana.

Agenda Item III.A.2.d.

University of South Alabama Mobile, Alabama

BACKGROUND

The University of South Alabama (USA) first registered with the Board of Regents in 2003. The institution is headquartered in Mobile, Alabama and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

USA currently makes available to Louisiana residents eleven baccalaureate, six masters, one specialist and four doctoral online programs, primarily in business and health-related fields. Since eighteen of the twenty-two programs require clinical/internship experiences, licensure is necessary.

FACULTY

USA employs 1,041 faculty in support of its online programs available to Louisiana residents. Of the 1,041 faculty, 568 are employed fulltime and 473 are employed part-time. Of the 568 fulltime faculty, 433 are trained at the doctoral level.

FACILITIES

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Given its regional and program accreditation, the credentials of its faculty, and the scope of its current operations in Louisiana, the senior staff recommends that the Board of Regents approve the application for license renewal from the University of South Alabama, located in Mobile, Alabama.

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Minutes
Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
March 8, 2016

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 10:12 a.m. in Room 1-190 of the Claiborne Building, Baton Rouge. Acting Chair Lalonde called the meeting to order and the roll was called.

Commission Members Present

Melanie Amrhein
Richard D'Aquin
Sherrie Despino
James Dorris
James Fontenot
Theresa Hay
Raymond Lalonde

Staff Members Present

Nancy Beall
Chandra Cheatham
Kristi Kron
Carol Marabella

Commission Members Absent

Ralph Bender, Vice-Chair
Keith Jones, Chair

Guests Present

(See Appendix A.)

The first item of business was approval of the minutes from its meeting of January 12, 2016.

On motion of Ms. Hay, seconded by Ms. Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the January 12, 2016 Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was four initial license applications, the first from Aesthetic Laser Institute, LLC, located in Metairie, Louisiana, and represented by the school's owner, Ms. Sherril L. Monson. Ms. Marabella reviewed the materials for the Commission, informing it that this institution would be offering two programs in medical aesthetic procedures--Basic Laser Course (7 days/56.0 clock hours) and Master Laser Course (10 days/80.0 clock hours). The Aesthetic Laser Institute had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the prerequisites for program enrollment, the owner's professional background in medical aesthetic procedures, the financial projections contained in the school's business plan, the marketing plan for recruitment, the rationale for offering the short term programs, and tuition payment options available to students,

On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for the Aesthetic Laser Institute, LLC, located in Metairie, Louisiana.

The second initial license application considered by the Commission was from Louisiana Medical Certifications, LLC, located in New Roads, Louisiana, and represented by the school's owner, Ms. Lisa A. Gunnells. Ms. Marabella reviewed the materials for the Commission, informing it that this institution would be offering one program of study, Certified Nursing

Assistant, which is a four-week, 80.0 clock hour program (inclusive of both classroom and clinical experience). The program has received the required approval from the LA Department of Health and Hospitals, Health Standards Section. Louisiana Medical Certifications, LLC, had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the owner's experience in the allied health field and her reason for opening a proprietary school, length of program, maximum class size, the secured contracts with the clinical sites, and the school's competitive pricing and payment options for students,

On motion of Ms. Hay, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Louisiana Medical Certifications, LLC, located in New Roads, Louisiana.

The third initial license application considered by the Commission was from New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport, located in Shreveport, Louisiana, and represented by the corporate administrators, Mr. James Cox and Mr. Frank Petty. Ms. Kron reviewed the materials for the Commission, informing it that this institution would be offering multiple programs in Business Administration, Medical Office Administration, and IT certification preparation with program lengths ranging from 165.5 clock hours to 561.0 clock hours and 8.25 weeks to 27.0 weeks. New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the utilization of the corporate model for programs that will be offered at the Shreveport campus, programs are scheduled according to need, the reason for opening a location in Shreveport, and the anticipated competition with similar training programs,

On motion of Ms. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. Fontenot, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport, located in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The fourth and final initial license application considered by the Commission was from Workforce Career & Technical College, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, and represented by the school's President/CEO, Ms. Denise Smith. Ms. Cheatham reviewed the materials for the Commission, informing it that this institution would be offering three programs of study--Dietary Manager--Healthcare (570.0 clock hours/6.0 months day & 12.0 months evening), Medical Administrative Assistant (360.0 clock hours/4.0 months day & 8.0 months evening), and Medical Clinical Assistant (485.0 clock hours/5.0 months day & 10.0 months evening). The Workforce Career & Technical College had met all the legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion regarding the owner's professional background, reason for opening a school, the potential employment opportunities for graduates, the owner's financial backing for the school, and area market competition,

On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents approve an initial operating license for Workforce Career & Technical College, located in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was operating license renewals. Ms. Marabella informed the Commission members that there were eleven (11) schools seeking renewal. These schools scheduled for renewal were in complete compliance, having met all the legal and administrative requirements to be re-licensed.

Following further discussion,

On motion of Ms. Amrhein, seconded by Mr. D'Aquin, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools (initial license date in parentheses).

Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting (01/26/06)
Blue Cliff College--Lafayette (01/27/00)
Coastal College--Hammond (02/23/89)
Dryades YMCA School of Commerce (02/27/97)
Felician Medical Training Academy (02/23/15)
Griff's Marine Training, Inc. (01/27/10)
ITI Technical College (01/27/00)
Louisiana Dental Assistant School, LLC (01/27/05)
Moore Career College, Inc. (01/27/10)
Southwest Dental Academy, LLC (01/25/12)
Tulsa Welding School--Jacksonville Campus (01/27/10)

Ms. Marabella informed the Commission that there were two institutions that chose not to renew their licenses this renewal cycle: Dental Assistant School of Baton Rouge, LLC (formerly Baton Rouge Dental Assistant School, LLC) (02/23/15) and Fortress Consulting and Education, LLC (02/23/15). Staff will follow through to secure the student records from each school for safekeeping.

The next item on the agenda was an update on program approvals. Acting Chair Lalonde reminded the Commission that staff approved these updates administratively and course approvals were being shared for informational purposes only.

Under Report from Staff, Ms. Marabella informed the Commission members that all is progressing well within the Proprietary Schools Section. Staff was busy this cycle with the review of initial applications (several of which were incomplete and were unable to be referred to the Commission for this meeting), renewal applications, and applications to add or amend programs of study. In addition, staff continues to investigate the best options for the anticipated scanning project to digitalize the student records from closed proprietary schools.

The next meeting of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1-190 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

James Cox	New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport
Lisa Gunnells	Louisiana Medical Certifications, LLC
Robert Monson	Aesthetic Laser Institute, LLC
Sherril Monson	Aesthetic Laser Institute, LLC
Frank Petty	New Horizons Computer Learning Center of Shreveport
Denise Smith	Workforce Career & Technical College
Patricia Wilton	LA Department of Justice

Agenda Item III.C

SARA Application for Membership Renewal Executive Summary

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. SARA is a national initiative which seeks to establish comparable national standards for the interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. 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. All institutions approved by their home state are required to renew their membership annually.

Louisiana State University - Alexandria and Northwestern State University have submitted renewal applications to continue participating in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). 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 - Alexandria, and Northwestern State University and authorize staff to submit the approved renewal applications to NC-SARA for final approval of SARA membership.

Agenda Item IV.A.

International Health Coach University New Orleans, Louisiana

Staff Summary of Initial License Application

Legal Process

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. In this particular case, International Health Coach University (IHCU) has identified the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) as its desired accreditation agency. DEAC accreditation aims to instill public confidence in DEAC institutions' missions, goals, performance, and resources through rigorous application and peer-developed accreditation standards.

Overview of International Health Coach University

IHCU is proposed as a single purpose graduate school striving to improve the education, training and practice of health coaches. The University intends to provide students with current, professional curriculum taught by excellent faculty members who are leaders in their field. It is the University's expectation that most students will be employed full time and that educational offerings will be delivered parallel to students' professional practice.

The mission of the University is:

To educate students with current, relevant knowledge in health coaching and integrative nutrition, and to provide best-practice skills in health coaching, so that they can participate in supporting global health and individual happiness.

IHCU plans to initially offer a Master Health Coach degree with a concentration in Integrative Nutrition. This master's degree in health coaching is a professional degree comprised of 12 courses including a qualifying exam. Students must successfully complete 36 credit hours to earn a Master Health Coach degree. The University intends to offer the graduate program through distance learning technology.

Program objectives are as follows:

- *Apply health coaching skills in a variety of practice settings including hospitals, clinics, health educational facilities, private practices, corporations and schools.*
- *Understand and integrate the power of the mind/body connection to their practice.*
- *Build and sustain positive and trusting coaching relationships with clients.*
- *Use keen sensory skills so that, as coaches, they can observe symptoms as they may arise in their own bodies and to teach clients to do the same.*
- *Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to the core competencies and ethical principles of the profession.*

The University is presented as a corporation 100% owned and operated by Joshua Rosenthal, founder and owner of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition (IIN), which provides entry-level health coach training. A senior management team is in place consisting of an Advisory Board (composed of four individuals) and two senior administrators. IHCU is committed to hiring faculty who will meet DEAC standards as well as will provide the best educational experience relevant to the health coaching field. The staff observes that individuals engaged in the development of this institution and the degree program to be offered appear to possess requisite academic/experiential qualifications.

Chronology of Activities Related to Board of Regents' Consideration of the Application for State Registration and Licensure for International Health Coach University (IHCU)

October 2015 – The Board of Regents receives an application for registration and licensure of IHCU. The University indicates that it will seek institutional accreditation through the Distance Education Accrediting Commission.

October 2015 – Regents' staff conducts initial assessment of registration and licensure application submitted by IHCU.

October 2015 – Regents' staff concludes that further internal assessment would benefit from an in-depth review of this application using an external consultant thoroughly familiar with DEAC accreditation processes. Potential external reviewers were identified and contacted in order to determine interest and availability. IHCU representatives were updated on the status of the review.

November 16, 2015 – Regents' staff engages the services of Ms. Susan Chiaramonte, President, EduCred Services, to assess IHCU's application for licensure and associated materials in light of DEAC accreditation candidacy.

November 2015 – December 2015 – Ms. Chiaramonte reviews all documentation relevant to IHCU's application for licensure.

December 9, 2015 – Regents' staff requests IHCU's Curriculum Development Manual and Outcomes Assessment Plan

December 17, 2015 – Ms. Chiaramonte submits her formal report relevant to the University's application for licensure to Regents' staff.

December 22, 2015 – IHCU representative provides copies of their Curriculum Development Manual and Outcomes Assessment Plan as was requested by Regents' staff.

January 15, 2016 – The external consultant's report is provided to IHCU representatives. It is requested that should the University wish to continue pursuit of licensure in the State of Louisiana that a formal response to the consultant's report be provided per an addendum to the licensure application.

February 10, 2016 – The Board of Regents receives a formal response to the external consultant’s report. Staff finds the report to be thorough, addressing all recommendations and suggestions raised by the external reviewer.

Staff Assessment

The staff acknowledges that DEAC (IHCU’s chosen recognized accrediting agency) has long been recognized and accepted by the U.S. Department of Education as an appropriate measure of requisite quality for post-secondary educational institutions in the United States. In particular, DEAC appears to serve primarily those independent schools who aim to offer degree programs through distance learning technologies. Given its 80-plus years of history and its highly refined and federally recognized accreditation program, staff decided that the use of an external consultant with DEAC experience to conduct a mock review of IHCU’s application using DEAC accreditation standards would be a useful diagnostic tool both for the Regents and for the University.

IHCU’s initial application materials were reviewed by staff and by the external consultant, Ms. Susan Chiaramonte, who was selected to assist in the review process due to her vast experience with accreditation bodies and her past affiliation with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission. Ms. Chiaramonte’s 14 years of secondary and higher education experience, accreditation, and compliance knowledge was viewed as beneficial to the evaluation process. In addition, she regularly participates in evaluations of higher education institutions and continues to serve as Chair and Educational Standards Evaluator for onsite visits for DEAC and has served as a subject specialist for the Accrediting Commission of Career Colleges and Schools (ACCSC). Ms. Chiaramonte regularly attends various higher education accreditation conferences and has presented several times at DEAC Annual Conferences and Fall Workshops.

Findings and opinions were provided by Ms. Chiaramonte as well as the identification of areas in which IHCU would need to show documentary evidence of compliance with DEAC standards and policies. She pinpointed steps that should be implemented prior to enrolling students as well as identified specific requirements that IHCU will need to focus and lay a solid foundation in order to achieve accreditation through DEAC. In conclusion, Ms. Chiaramonte states in her report:

Given time, it appears that the University could implement the policies, processes, and procedures necessary to demonstrate compliance with DEAC Accreditation Standards.

The staff finds that the additional documentation provided by IHCU in early February adequately responds to areas of concerns as identified by Ms. Chiaramonte. It is the observation of staff that IHCU representatives have a clear knowledge and understanding of DEAC standards and comprehend what is required by IHCU to comply with said standards. While the staff has no way of determining whether or not documentation provided to date by IHCU will satisfy DEAC candidacy expectations, it appears that the University is in a good position to move forward with the accreditation process within the time period outlined by IHCU.

Staff Conclusion

Given the circumstances described above, International Health Coach University merits a limited period of state licensure to allow it sufficient time to seek DEAC candidacy and accreditation. This initial period of licensure, however, should be subject to the fulfillment of several stipulations, requiring step-by-step continuous evidence of progress toward accreditation. So as to avoid any doubts regarding the seriousness of the Regents' intent in this matter, these stipulations should be structured in such a way that failure to complete fully any one of these requirements can result in immediate revocation of licensure. The motion and stipulations below are designed to ensure that IHCU operates within Louisiana only as long as there is unquestioned evidence that reasonable accreditation progress is being made.

Staff Recommendation

1. The Board of Regents hereby grants initial licensure for International Health Coach University for a period of three years.
2. Annually, beginning September 1 of the first year of institutional operation and on that date every year thereafter during the term of initial licensure, the University 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. This report shall at a minimum evidence attendance and participation of appropriate University officials at periodic DEAC workshops for pre-applicant institutions and general membership meetings.
3. At the end of this period of initial licensure, the University 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 University shall provide evidence of successful DEAC candidacy status. If granted, the Regents will consider extending licensure to allow for final, full 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 University 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.