



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: III.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: February 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Receipt of the Review Team Report Concerning the Loyola University Request to Offer Its Graduate Level Academic Credit Programs in Maine

Background: 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that the State Board of Education may approve an application from a postsecondary educational institution located outside the State of Maine to offer within the state courses or programs for academic credit. Officials from Loyola University of New Orleans, Louisiana, through sponsorship by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Maine, requested authorization to offer the degree of Master of Pastoral Studies (M.P.S.) and the Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) as well as certificate programs in both of these areas in the State of Maine. Loyola University received prior authorization by the Board to offer these programs in Maine from 1994 through 1997. As there will be a physical presence in Maine the current request requires approval by the State Board of Education.

The Loyola University request was reviewed by the Board approved team January 19, 2007 on the Westbrook College Campus of the University of New England. Following that meeting a report of findings was compiled in accordance with the rules established by the Board.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the State Board of Education receive the Loyola University Review Team Report of Findings. Action on the team's recommendation will appear as an agenda item for the March 14, 2007 Board meeting.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist