



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

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: #VII.B

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: September 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Review Team Report of Findings Concerning the Application from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for Renewal of Authorization to Offer 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 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), located in Daytona Beach, Florida, made application for renewal of prior approval to offer academic credit programs in Maine leading to completion of requirements for the degrees of: Associate of Science in Aircraft Maintenance, Associate of Science in Technical Management, Associate of Science in Professional Aeronautics, Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics, Bachelor of Science in Technical Management, Master of Aeronautical Science, and Master of Science in Technical Management.

ERAU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in the awarding of degrees at the associate's, bachelor's and master's levels. Beginning in 1981 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offered courses and degree programs in facilities located on the Limestone Air Base. Following closure of the base in 1994, the University began offering classes at the Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS) and has continued doing so. As long as the institution conducted its operations on federal property it was exempt from Maine program authorization procedures. When the institution's offices and classrooms were moved off of BNAS property, in 2004 the University sought, and was granted, State Board of Education authorization to continue to operate in the State of Maine.

The ERAU application was reviewed in accordance with the rules established by the Board and evaluated through the use of standards adopted by the Board. The ERAU Brunswick Regional Center was visited by the Board appointed Review Team on December 18, 2008. In the course of this visit, the team met with ERAU representatives, current students and some recent graduates. Based on the ERAU report and the results of this visit, the team requested follow-up materials and certain clarifications to assist in drafting their report of findings. A second on-site visit was conducted by the Team on May 8, 2009. Following the second visit the Review Team's Report of Findings was compiled for submission to the State Board of Education.

The ERAU administrative letter of commitment to maintaining a presence in Maine and related documentation, as called for in the Team's Report of Findings, are appended to this exhibit.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education accept the Review Team's Report of Findings and grant the request from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for renewal of authorization to offer academic credit programs in Maine. The approval period would be from summer 2009 to summer 2013.

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