



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VII.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: James E. Rier, Commissioner*

DATE: November 12, 2014

SUBJECT: Request to Extend the Review of Bowdoin College's Educator Preparation Programs to the Fall of 2016

BACKGROUND: Bowdoin College is scheduled for a program review in the fall of 2015. However, numerous faculty transitions impede the successful adherence to the timeline. At the end of 2014, one of the three tenure-track faculty members of the Education Department will retire. In response, the Bowdoin Education Department hired a new tenure-track assistant professor who will begin teaching full time in the spring of 2015. Also in 2015, the one remaining tenured professor will be on a sabbatical year. This professor had agreed to actively participate in the scheduled Fall 2015 state review. Unfortunately, another unexpected resignation of a long-term visiting faculty member in June 2014 forced Bowdoin to delay the sabbatical of the tenured professor to the 2015-2016 academic year in order to provide a full complement of course offerings.

As a consequence of these circumstances, the Bowdoin College Education Department will be staffed by only one tenured faculty member, an assistant professor, and an as-yet-to-be-hired sabbatical leave replacement adjunct in the Fall 2015. In the fall of 2016 the department will be fully staffed with two tenured faculty members and one tenure track professor with two semesters of experience at the College.

State Board Rule Chapter 114, Part 3.1 (e) reads as follows:

Requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education; however, such extensions shall not extend the date when the subsequent approval is due. The Board will only consider such requests in emergency situations.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education extend the review of Bowdoin College's Department of Education to the Fall of 2016 and extend the current approval of the Bowdoin College Teacher Preparation Program through December 2016. In doing so, the number of years to the next review scheduled for 2020 will be reduced by one year.

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