



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

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

James E. Rier, Jr.  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

**EXHIBIT: # V.B.**

TO: Members of the State Board of Education  
FROM: James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner\*  
DATE: January 15, 2014  
SUBJECT: Request to Extend the Review of the University of New England's Educator Preparation Programs to the Fall of 2015.

**BACKGROUND:**

The University of New England is scheduled for a program review in the fall of 2014. The current Chair of the Education Department at UNE will be leaving the University in June of 2014 and a new chair has not been identified. Additionally, due to changes in staffing at UNE, 67% of the faculty and 100% of the administrators in the Education Department are new and several new programs have been designed and are in the early stages of implementation.

A one year delay in the review process would allow faculty to implement new programs and collect evidence prior to the review providing a more accurate and complete report on the University's programming.

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 the University of New England's Educator Preparation Programs to the Fall of 2015 and extend the current approval of the UNE Teacher Preparation Programs through December 2015.

\*Prepared by Anita Bernhardt, Coordinator for Standards and Instruction