



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 26, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Jana Lapoint; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Jana Lapoint, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted two in favor with one-member abstaining (Fern Desjardins) to accept the June 24, 2020 minutes as written.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the July 1, 2020 minutes as written.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the July 8, 2020 minutes as written.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and voted two in favor with one-member abstaining (Jana Lapoint) to accept the July 22, 2020 minutes as written.

Certification Office Update: *(Angel Loreda for Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

- Support staff is working hard due to increased calls from out-of-state teachers.
- Initial certification applications are a 2-week turnaround. Maine is under the national norm for New England Standard.
- Executive Order – Two components that will affect this Committee.
 - 1) Emergency Certification
 - 2) Educator and Administrator Certification Reciprocity

Higher Education Update: (Jason Libby)
Review of Draft Letter/Upcoming Reviews:

Jason Libby reported an email, previously approved by the Committee, to communicate with Educator Preparation Program units with reviews in the Fall of 2020 was sent by him in mid-August. As UME will be undergoing a CAEP review, they did not receive the email.

Update on Team Reports:

- *Review Team schedules* – Jason has spoken with Bates College and the University of New England (UNE) – Outside visitors are not currently welcome at Bates or UNE. Team recruitment is difficult at this time with the COVID-19 and it is not known what the situation will be in September.
 - *Bates review – September of 2020*
 - *UNE review – October of 2020*
 - *UMaine at Machias – Requested delay to April 2020 – Pandemic moved review to November of 2020*
 - *UMaine review – December 2020 – State and CAEP Review. The DOE does not have full control of the CAEP review. The five-year agreement with CAEP’s term ends in November.*
- College of the Atlantic (COA) responded to the above email with additional questions which Jason answered.
- In January 2021, the Committee will discuss the status of these reviews.

Review of Annual Reports:

Annual Report – Due date was April 7, 2020:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. Reports that have been received by Jason Libby and forwarded to Committee Members:

Annual Report From:	Date Received:
Bates College	February 10, 2020
Bowdoin College	January 27, 2020
College of the Atlantic	April 7, 2020
Eastern Maine Community College	April 7, 2020
Husson University	April 9, 2020
Saint Joseph’s College	May 13, 2020
MECA	May 28, 2020
Saint Joseph’s College	May 13, 2020
University of Maine Farmington	April 6, 2020
University of Maine at Machias	April 16, 2020
University of Maine - Orono	June 12, 2020
University of Maine at Presque Isle	June 3, 2020
University of Southern Maine	April 7, 2020
University of New England	June 9, 2020

Annual Reports not received to date:

- Colby College
- Thomas College
- UMA – not applicable

Jason will send a reminder to the two colleges/universities around the middle of September.

The Committee reviewed and discussed four reports:

MECA
UME
USM
UNE

Governor's Executive Order: *(Wilson Hess)*

Wilson Hess reported that he received a call from Commissioner Makin regarding an “imminent issuance” of an Executive Order from the Governor pertaining to teacher certification. There was not a great deal of detail but he expects the following will be included:

- ***Emergency Certification*** – certificates will be effective through August 31, 2021 and expire on September 1, 2021.
- ***Educator and Administrator Certification Reciprocity*** – individuals holding a certificate issued by another state or country may qualify for certification.
- ***Additional Emergency Support Staff*** – special Certification for Ed Tech II effective through August 31, 2021, expiring September 1, 2021.

Angel Loreda stated that Stephanie Fyfe and staff from Special Education worked with the Commissioner on this Executive Order language.

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – June 24, 2020, July 1, 2020, July 8, 2020, and July 22, 2020
- 3) Four Annual Reports not yet reviewed.

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Other Business (VII on agenda) Topics for the next meeting

- 1) Certification and Higher Education Committee strategic goals
- 2) Joint Rules that impact Certification and Higher Education Committee

Adjournment:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to adjourn the August 26, 2020 Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting at 11:54 AM.