



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the July 8, 2020 Special Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Jana Lapoint; Wendy Ault; Wilson Hess; John Bird; and Fern Desjardins (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.

Guests: Chris Mallett, Chief Administrative Officer and Kristin Smith, Global Regulatory Affairs and Planning, Roux Institute at Northeastern University.

Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes for approval.

Continuation of Review of Northeastern University Team Report:

Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy of The University of Maine chaired the review team which included Dr. Glenn Cummings of the University of Southern Maine, Dr. Ellen Beaulieu of the University of New England, Dr. Josh McIntosh of Bates College, and Mr. Matthew Orlando of Bowdoin College. State Board of Education member Wendy Ault served as the State Board's observer. The review team reviewed the institution's self-study using Chapter 149 and Chapter 170 standards and held a virtual visit with the institution on June 2, 2020.

At the July 1, 2020 Special Committee meeting, members reviewed the Northeastern University team report of findings and submitted a list of questions to Northeastern University. The Committee received a handout with answers to their questions and invited Chris Mallett from Northeastern University to join the meeting and review the handout. Following discussion, a motion was made for the report to go before the full State Board of Education at the July 15, 2020 Board meeting for receipt and approval.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to recommend that the State Board of Education receive and approve the Northeastern University Review Team report of findings that the institution's graduate degree programs as listed in the exhibit be granted initial approval under Chapter 409: MRSA 20-A, §10705 §§3 from Fall 2020 to Fall 2024. Additionally, the State Board of Education requests an onsite visit of the Roux Institute in 2021 when operations are fully underway to confirm that plans as described in Spring 2020 are materializing effectively.

Review of draft letter for upcoming reviews:

Jason Libby will draft a letter to communicate with Educator Preparation Program units that have upcoming reviews in the fall of 2020. Due to unprecedented times with COVID-19, it is likely that schools may impose limitations to visitors which would make it difficult for traditional visits, along with difficulty in recruitment of review team members. A spring 2021 timeline is being considered as an alternative to a fall review as scheduled. Jane Sexton and Jason Libby will sign the letter once it is reviewed and approved by the Committee at the July 22nd meeting.

The College of the Atlantic (COA) has sent an official letter requesting a delay of their fall review to the spring of 2021. The Committee will discuss their request at the July 22nd meeting.

July 22, 2020 Meeting Topics:

- Review Action Plan 2019-2020 and Strategic plan
- Annual Report Update
- Upcoming Team Review Schedule

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Committee Report of Findings – Northeastern University
- 3) The Roux Institute at Northeastern University - Response to Questions asked by members of the Certification and Higher Education Committee
- 4) Annual Reports received to date

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment: The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.