



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

JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

PENDER MAKIN
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT IX.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Michael T. Perry, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services, Maine Department of Education, on behalf of Commissioner Pender Makin

DATE: February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Request to Extend Existing Approval of the University of Maine at Augusta's Educator Preparation Program by Twelve Months

BACKGROUND:

The University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) is a state approved Educator Preparation Program (EPP) which was last approved by the State Board of Education for the period of Fall 2019 to Fall 2024.

On October 23, 2023, Dr. Cynthia Dean, Coordinator of Teacher Education at the University of Maine at Augusta, sent a formal request to the State Board of Education asking that UMA's EPP approval be extended from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025. According to that request, two emergent issues at UMA have informed this extension request:

- (1) In addressing a particularly great need in Maine's educator workforce, UMA is working with a sister campus to launch a special education program. The institution feels it could include their new special education program for approval if their review were to take place in 2025.
- (2) UMA's faculty would be better positioned to engage with the demanding state review process if they were able to access professional grant funding through their institution; these funds would not be available until the 24-25 academic year.

State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, *Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel*, subsection 3.11(e), allows that "requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education."

The Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education discussed this request during its regular meeting on January 24, 2023, and voted unanimously to approve UMA's request to extend their EPP approval by twelve months. (Per Rule Ch. 114, the subsequent review of UMA's EPP would be for a shorter period to maintain the regular cadence of reviews.)

RECOMMENDATION: That, pursuant to State Board of Education Rule Chapter 114, subsection 3.11(e), the State Board of Education approve the University of Maine at Augusta's request to extend the existing approval of its Educator Preparation Program by twelve months.



COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

46 University Drive, Augusta, Maine 04330-9488
www.uma.edu | 1.877.UMA.1234

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Cindy Dean, Coordinator of Teacher Education

RE: Request to defer state review timeline

Date: October 23, 2023

I respectfully request that the University of Maine at Augusta be allowed to defer its state approval self-study and accreditation visit from fall of 2024 to fall of 2025. The primary factors driving this request are as follows:

- We have an opportunity to apply for a grant that will fund the intensive work of writing the self-study and constructing the exhibit room and provide faculty with release time from their teaching duties. These funds, should they be awarded, would not be available to us until fall 2024.
- We are working to establish a cooperating departments agreement with one of our sister campuses for special education and would like a bit more time to finalize the agreement. Special education is not one of our approved programs, and we wish to request approval at our next review.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cindy Dean'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cindy Dean, Ed. D.