South Carolina
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CAAL
4/2/2009
Agenda Item 3.a

April 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

FROM: Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

Consideration of Request for Amendment of Existing License to Add New Program
M.S., Education, Elementary Education (non-certification)
Troy University, Troy, AL, at its sites in Sumter, Charleston, and Rock Hill

Summary

Troy University (TU) <http://www.troy.edu/> requests approval of an amendment to its license to offer a program leading to the Master of Science degree in Education with a concentration in Elementary Education at its sites in Sumter, Charleston, and Rock Hill, to be implemented as soon as enrollments justify. Courses will be taught on-ground and on-line.

Troy University is a public, non-profit institution, having been established February 26, 1887, by an act of the Alabama Legislature as the Troy Normal School. Troy University has developed into a worldwide educational system now serving approximately 18,000 students. The TU system has four campuses in Alabama and off-campus programs at approximately 60 military installations and teaching sites located in 13 countries and 17 states. The system now offers more than 70 associate, bachelor, master, and education specialist degrees.

Troy has operated in South Carolina since 1992, beginning at the Shaw Air Force Base. The Commission on Higher Education licensed Troy to offer programs off-base in Sumter and in Charleston in 2002 and approved an additional site in Rock Hill in 2007.

The Commission currently licenses Troy University to offer programs in various curricula leading to bachelor and master degrees.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS) is the regional body which accredits Troy. Troy University's program leading to the M.S. degree in Education with a concentration in Elementary Education provides a classroom-focused master's degree for certified teachers. The program is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The following information from the U.S. Department of Education shows student loan default rates at Troy University.

OPE ID	School	Type	Control	PRGMS		FY2006	FY2005	FY2004
001047	Troy University University Avenue Troy AL 36082-0001	Master's Degree or Doctor's Degree	Public	Family Federal Education Loan (FFEL)	**Default Rate**	5.3	5.0	5.0
					No. in Default	431	300	181
					No. in Repay	8090	5902	3614

The U. S. Department of Education sanctions a school when the school's three most recent cohort default rates are 25 percent or higher or if a school's current default rate is greater than 40 percent. Except in the event of a successful adjustment or appeal, such a school will lose Family Federal Educational Loan, Direct Loan, and Federal Pell Grant program eligibility for the remainder of the fiscal year in which the school is notified of its sanction and for the following two fiscal years. Troy's default rates are far below this standard.

Troy makes available sufficient learning resources to support the courses and degrees offered. Each student receives a comprehensive library resource book that describes the procedures to access Troy's on-line resources, interlibrary loan, local library support, Internet hints, computer safeguards, and directions on citations. The TU Library System has subscriptions to nearly 70 databases that offer remote access. The Troy Southeast Regional office has a web site which links to the Troy Main Campus, faculty web sites, and the on-line library. Troy uploads syllabi and handouts to the Southeast Regional web site.

Each site has a director who handles the local operations and support of the site. The site directors report to the State director for South Carolina, and the State director reports to the Southeast region director. The provost on the Troy campus is responsible for the various student services at University College (off-campus) locations. These

services are geared to meet the needs of students at each location and include orientation, counseling, financial aid, transcript service, graduation ceremonies, library support, and alumni organizations. Through Trojan Web Express, an online tool, students review and perform academic and financial transactions including academic evaluations, financial aid information, course registration, and make tuition payments 24 hours a day.

Faculty who teach in graduate programs must meet the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education licensing requirement that, with rare exception, graduate faculty members hold terminal degrees, usually an earned doctorate, in the field in which they teach. TU also requires that each faculty member have experience teaching at the college level. The institution will use a combination of core and adjunct faculty with a minimum of 25 percent of the program taught by full-time faculty members.

For admission into the program leading to the M.S. degree in Education, with a concentration in Elementary Education, candidates must hold professional baccalaureate-level certification in the teaching field. The Division of Educator Quality and Leadership at the South Carolina Department of Education has confirmed that teachers are able to use the credential for graduate-level pay upgrade.

TU officials project an enrollment of approximately ten new students in the beginning term at each location. Total tuition for the M.S. degree in Education, Elementary Education, is $9,000, $750 for each three-semester-hour course.

Troy University **M.S., Education, Elementary Education (non-certification)**	**Semester Credit Hours**
EDU 6629 The Master Teacher	3
PSY 6631 Psychological Foundations of Education	3
EDU 6611 Educational Technology in the Curriculum (or an approved technology course in the discipline)	3
SPE 6630 Collaboration for Inclusion	3
EDU 6653 Educational Evaluation (or approved Evaluation course in the teaching field)	3
EDU 6691 or EDU 6699 Research Methodology or Research in Practice	3
In addition to the required core, a survey course in special education is required unless previously completed at the undergraduate or graduate level.	
Advisor-approved Elementary Education courses	12
Advisor-approved Elementary Education courses or other advisor-approved courses related to the profession (education, early childhood education, special education, or reading (literacy))	6
Total Semester Credit Hours	**36**

Troy officials state that its program will be successful in Sumter, Charleston, and Rock Hill because of its appeal to working adults who seek a reasonably-priced, schedule-accessible master's degree in elementary education. Other institutions in the state that offer non-certification graduate programs in elementary education are listed in the following table:

Non-certification Graduate Programs in Elementary Education		
Institution	**Degree**	**Institution Program Name**
Clemson	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
Coastal Carolina	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
College of Charleston	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
Lander	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
South Carolina State	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
U.S.C. - Aiken	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
U.S.C. - Columbia	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
U.S.C. - Upstate	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
Bob Jones	M.Ed.	Elementary Education
Charleston Southern	M.Ed.	Elementary Teacher Education
Charleston Southern	M.Ed.	Elementary, Middle & Secondary Education Admin.
Converse College	M.Ed.	Elementary Teacher Education
Furman University	M.A.	Elementary Teacher Education
Furman University	M.A.	Elementary, Middle & Secondary Education Admin.
Lesley University	M.Ed.	Elementary Education: Profession and Practice

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission an amendment to the license of Troy University to approve the offering of a program leading to the Master of Science degree in Education with a concentration in Elementary Education, at its sites in Sumter, Charleston, and Rock Hill, to be implemented as soon as justified by enrollments.