



CAAL  
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Agenda Item 4

# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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The Honorable Lewis R. Vaughn  
Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

December 1, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chairman, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**From:** Dr. T. Michael Raley, Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing 

### Re-Consideration of Request for Amendment to Existing License to Recruit South Carolina Residents Into New Programs: D.B.A., Ph.D., and Ed.D., Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ

Ms. Natasha Hanna has requested that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing reconsider the proposal of Grand Canyon University (<http://www.gcu.edu/>) of Phoenix, Arizona, to recruit South Carolina residents into online programs leading to the Doctor of Business Administration degree in Management; the Doctor of Philosophy degree in General Psychology in (1) Cognition and Instruction and (2) Industrial and Organizational Psychology; and the Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Leadership.

Upon recommendation of the staff, the Committee at its meeting on October 6 agreed to commend favorably to the Commission Grand Canyon University's request. However, as a member who voted in favor of the October 6 motion, Ms. Hanna has requested reconsideration because of issues that have been brought forward concerning US Department of Education investigations, state investigations, and lack of evidence regarding accreditation reviews.

### Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing amend its recommendation so that the approval is conditional upon GCU's achieving specialized accreditation for the programs leading to the Ed.D. and D.B.A. degrees and that the institution provides evidence of evaluation of the Ph.D. in Psychology that demonstrates quality through regular, rigorous, independent, external review such as is would be provided by American Psychological Association (A.P.A.) specialized accreditation but could be shown by another means. The conditions must be met before the institution is authorized to recruit SC residents into the programs.