

**Minutes
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
May 24, 2016**

Members Present

Chair Terrye Seckinger
Dr. Louis Lynn, via teleconference
Mr. Kim Phillips

Members Absent:

Admiral Charles Munns
Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer
Dr. Evans Whitaker

Staff Present

Mr. Clay Barton
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Sandra Carr
Ms. Carrie Eberly
Ms. Lane Goodwin
Dr. Paula Gregg
Ms. Anna Grubic
Ms. Trena Houpp, via teleconference
Dr. John Lane

Guests

Dr. Connie Book, The Citadel, via teleconference
Mr. Matt Braaten, Lander University, via teleconference
Dr. Richard Cosentino, Lander University, via teleconference
Dr. Debra Jackson, Clemson University, via teleconference
Dr. Michael McGee, Lenoir-Rhyne University
Ms. Jane Moretz, Lenoir-Rhyne University
Mr. Tom Nelson, Lander University, via teleconference
Dr. Toni Oakes, Lenoir-Rhyne University
Dr. Jeff Priest, University of South Carolina Aiken
Dr. Charlie Spell, S.C. State University

Welcome

Chair Seckinger called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and announced the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

1. Consideration of Request for Amendment to License to offer a program leading to the: M.S., Occupational Therapy, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC, at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and Center for Graduate Studies, Columbia, SC

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Lynn) and **seconded** (Phillips) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. McGee explained that the University seeks to start a South Carolina cohort for its M.S. in Occupational Therapy program, which started on the main campus in Hickory, NC in 1996. He stated there is a great need for healthcare professionals and currently only one other occupational therapy degree in the state of SC.

Chair Seckinger asked about accreditation. Dr. McGee replied that this program will be a site of the Hickory campus program which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) and that the process to extend accreditation for a new site involves a 60-90-day review of the program. He added that the University anticipates the SC cohort to be accredited in Summer of 2017. Chair Seckinger presented her understanding of the

organizational structure by clarifying that Lenoir-Rhyne has one administration and three campuses and that faculty among the campuses are shared. Dr. McGee affirmed Chair Seckinger's understanding.

Dr. Lane referred the Committee to the back page of the proposal packet, comprised of a memo of several questions for the University. He then asked Dr. McGee and Dr. Oakes to respond to those questions. Dr. Oakes spoke to evaluation and assessment data and reported that the University understands programs are consistently evolving to meet the needs of students and the workplace. She explained that the University reviews the semester course evaluations to explore whether changes need to be made to the program. She also added the occupational therapy faculty meet weekly to discuss the program and that once a month, the faculty meet with cohort representatives for the sake of improving the program offering.

Chair Seckinger asked about the physical plant. Dr. McGee responded that the program would need a new building at the seminary site in Columbia? because there were no renovation options on campus. He added that the University is consulting architects and engineers to develop building plans. Chair Seckinger asked whether the building will be ready by the start of the program in Summer 2017. Dr. McGee stated that he anticipates the building will be finished but that the University has a back-up plan if it is not.

Dr. Lane asked about the inventory item number referenced in the proposal. Dr. McGee responded that the University's current plan is for the new site to share equipment with the Hickory campus so that each campus will have a combination of old and new equipment. Dr. Lane asked about costs. Dr. McGee answered that the University uses surplus revenue to start any new project and therefore the program's start-up costs are covered by these funds.

Chair Seckinger shared that CHE is emphasizing the minimization of student debt and on-time graduation rates. She added that CHE hopes to enact policy on graduation rates and debt ratios. She asked about Lenoir-Rhyne's graduation rates. Dr. Oakes replied that she and other faculty members stay abreast of these issues both at the university level and nationally. She stated that occasionally Lenoir-Rhyne has a student who is delayed in graduating on time due to struggles in the classroom. She added that the program is 70 credit hours and takes on average 27 months to complete. Chair Seckinger asked about the help available for struggling students. Dr. Oakes answered that remedial help is available. She continued by stating that most of the students who have to step out of the program usually do so because of life circumstances, not for academic reasons. Dr. McGee added that the University has two licensed counselors who travel between campuses.

Commissioner Lynn asked whether a student can switch from a Hickory or Asheville cohort to the Columbia cohort and vice versa. Dr. McGee responded that he had not thought about that option.

Chair Seckinger asked that Lenoir-Rhyne keep CHE updated on the building process and provide the circumstances of any delay.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission an amendment to the license of Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU) to offer a program leading to the Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy at its Center for Graduate Studies in Columbia, to be implemented in June 2017, provided that no state funding be required or requested. The Committee further recommends that the license be amended under

the following conditions: that LRU develop its new facilities for the program, gain ACOTE Candidacy status for the program, and increase its assignment of collateral to \$50,000.

The Committee also recommends that the Commission authorize the Commission staff to issue an amended license to LRU upon LRU meeting the conditions outlined above, and after inspection by CHE staff of the facilities.

2. Revised Mission Statement for Lander University

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Chair Seckinger expressed her admiration for the mission statement, describing it as simple and straightforward, with clear scope and direction. She expressed her appreciation for the mission's emphasis of liberal arts education geared towards workforce.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised mission statement from Lander University.

3. Program Modifications for Compliance with the *Read to Succeed Act*

- a. South Carolina State University
 - B.A., Dramatic Arts (Secondary Education)
 - B.A., English (Secondary Education)
 - B.A., Social Studies Education
 - B.S., Art Education K-12
 - B.S., Business Education
 - B.S., Biology (Secondary Education)
 - B.S., Chemistry (Secondary Education)
 - B.S., Early Childhood Education
 - B.S., Elementary Education
 - B.S., Industrial Education (Industrial Technology)
 - B.S., Mathematics (Secondary Education)
 - B.S., Middle Level Education (Mathematics/Science, Mathematics/Social Studies, Mathematics/English, Science/Social Studies, Science/English, Social Studies/English)
 - B.S., Music Education (Choral/Voice, Choral/Piano, Instrumental)
 - B.S., Physical Education
 - B.S., Special Education (LD, EMD, ED)
- b. South Carolina State University
 - M.A.T., Early Childhood Education
 - M.A.T., Elementary Education
 - M.A.T., Secondary Education and Teaching (English, Biology, Mathematics)
 - M.Ed., Counselor Education

Chair Seckinger introduced both Agenda Item 3a and 3b and the Committee **moved** (Seckinger) and **seconded** (Phillips) a motion to accept the staff's recommendations for approval.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the program modifications to the following teacher education programs,

listed in both Agenda Item 3a and Agenda Item 3b, to be implemented in Fall 2016: B.A., Dramatic Arts (Secondary Education); B.A., English (Secondary Education); B.A., Social Studies Education; B.S., Art Education K-12; B.S., Business Education; B.S., Biology (Secondary Education); B.S., Chemistry (Secondary Education); B.S., Early Childhood Education; B.S., Elementary Education; B.S., Industrial Education (Industrial Technology); B.S., Mathematics (Secondary Education); B.S., Middle Level Education (Mathematics/Science, Mathematics/Social Studies, Mathematics/English, Science/Social Studies, Science/English, Social Studies/English); B.S., Music Education (Choral/Voice, Choral/Piano, Instrumental); B.S., Physical Education; and B.S., Special Education (LD, EMD, ED); M.A.T., Early Childhood Education; M.A.T., Elementary Education; M.A.T., Secondary Education and Teaching (English, Biology, Mathematics); and M.Ed., Counselor Education.

4. Revised *Policies and Procedures for Academic Degree Program Productivity*

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Phillips) and **seconded** (Lynn) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane introduced Ms. Houpp who led a task force regarding program productivity. Ms. Houpp informed the Committee that the taskforce made two significant changes to the policy: 1.) end the lifetime program exemption and ensure that all programs, exempt or non-exempt, are reviewed regularly as to their qualifications for exemption status; and 2.) to adopt a consequence for improvement plan non-compliance in that no new programs or program modifications will be reviewed by CHE until the overdue program productivity improvement plan is submitted. She explained that the probationary period for unproductive programs was extended from four to six years to allow more time for institutions to implement changes and see the results of those changes. Chair Seckinger commented that the changes seem reasonable. Ms. Houpp added that the task force will continue working on a new initiative for program-specific review.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to commend favorably** to the Commission approval of the revised *Policies and Procedures for Academic Degree Program Productivity*.

5. Discussion of 2017 Meeting Dates

Chair Seckinger introduced the agenda item, and the Committee **moved** (Seckinger) and **seconded** (Phillips) a motion to accept the staff's recommendation for approval. Dr. Lane explained the need for different CAAL meeting dates and referred to the Commissioners' recent decision to move Commission meetings from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., leaving no time for CAAL meetings to occur on the same day. Commissioner Phillips asked that each meeting have teleconference capabilities since he probably would not be able to travel for a CHE meeting one week and for a CAAL meeting the next week. Dr. Lane assured the Committee that teleconference would be available.

Without further discussion, the Committee **voted unanimously to approve** the CAAL meeting dates as presented.

6. Other Business

Chair Seckinger thanked those in attendance for their participation and staff for their work. Hearing no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.