



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the May 27, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Jane Sexton; Jana Lapoint; Wendy Ault; Wilson Hess and Fern Desjardins (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta; Angel Loredo, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Stephanie Fyfe, Certification Coordinator; and Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Guest: Cynthia Alexander, Assistant Superintendent, RSU #5; Holly Couturier, Executive Director – Professional Division, Maine Principals’ Association; and Malik McKinley, Director of Client Relations, Educational Testing Services (ETS)

Chair, Jane Sexton called the meeting to order at 11:16 AM.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the February 26, 2020 minutes as written.

Certification Office Update: *(Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

- Processing – 3-week turn around or less
- 0-15 minutes phone wait time
- Email reply – up to 24 hours

Stephanie updated the Committee on the following projects:

- Quarter 3 Production – January 30 to March 31
- Renewals for 2020 are increasing
- Executive Order
- Feedback
- Progress
- Data sheet presented
- Holly Couturier, Executive Director – Professional Division, Maine Principals’ Association commented that the field has been so appreciative with the Certification Office when calling in or emailing.

Chapter 115 Update: (Deputy Commissioner Dan Chuhta)
Chapter 115 – Certification, Authorization and Approval of Education Personnel:

Dan reported that the inaugural meeting for a representative group of participants, including members of the Professional Standards Board will meet to begin the drafting of the language for the Chapter 115 consensus-based rulemaking. The group will meet on Thursday, May 28th. Dan has 26 people who have expressed interest in participating in the meeting.

McKayla Marois, a senior at the University of Maine at Farmington pursuing a self-designed major in Inclusive Educational Policy with a concentration in Leadership and the Creative Arts will be presenting to the group. McKayla's presentation explained her failing of the PRAXIS II exam.

Review of UMA Team Report:

The University of Maine at Augusta - The report of findings was distributed to Committee members on February 26, 2020, to review over the next month. The Committee reviewed together and discussed the report at the May 27, 2020 Committee meeting. Fern Desjardins joined the Zoom meeting as the team review observer. Fern appreciated the opportunity to serve as the Board Observer for the team review and gave a brief report of findings.

- Fern loves different experiences and she really loved being an observer with the UMA Review Team. UMA is an interesting higher ed institution with less than 40% of the student population on the Augusta campus and over 60% at other sites. She believes there is a place for anyone to pursue higher ed in a way that works for him or her, and UMA is a perfect example of one of the pathways. In the Alumni and Students Interviews, Fern heard from an alumnus who stated that if he couldn't have gone to UMA, he wouldn't be a teacher. She heard from another that online classes worked for her. And another who stated that UMA was affordable compared to the debt she incurred from going elsewhere in her first year of college.
- Much praise was given of their teachers:
 - Fern heard things like, the teacher was very structured; university observer provided very specific feedback and was very reassuring to the student teacher; the student was well prepared for being observed by a principal so "nerves not as bad"; being well prepared in the content area; the student teacher received help relating the content for students to better understand and for making it more relevant; and that there were many opportunities for reflection and feedback to improve their teaching.
 - They were better prepared as teachers because of certain components that were required in their portfolios, like building relationships with students, teachers and the community; being in the lunchroom; connecting with students; making friends with office staff and janitors; the importance of hosting an event such as math night.
 - Students found the amount of time in the classrooms before student teaching – the observations and field experiences – that they were very helpful; The 4 alumni interviewed on Day 1 stated they felt well prepared to be in the classroom on their own.
- Fern went to Skowhegan High School to observe a student teacher. The supervising teacher spoke highly of the student teacher's preparation for teaching.
- She watched a Zoom recording of the EDU 200 class on Diversity, Poverty, and Cultural Competence. The alumni they interviewed indicated they had been instructed on developing lessons to accommodate diversity – be it SES diversity or any other form of diversity (refer to sections on page 4 of the *Team Report of Findings*.)
- Fern visited and was very impressed with the Veterans Center and the help veterans receive at UMA.

- In summary, UMA provides a good teacher prep program that works well for some students – on and off campus. By reviewing the Self Study and through Fern’s on-site visit, she saw evidence of the six standards being met and supports the Review Team’s recommendation to the State Board.

The Committee reviewed the report page by page – standard one through standard six and comments were made by each committee members.

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Jane Sexton, and unanimously voted by those present to grant five-year approval to the University of Maine at Augusta for the institution’s educator preparation program, effective from fall 2019 to fall 2024.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and unanimously voted by those present to request that the University of Maine at Augusta submit a progress report on the six recommendations in their annual report.

MOTION by Jane Sexton, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present for UMA to give the Certification and Higher Education Committee a report on the change in the degree program and will update the Board on the issues separately.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

Upcoming Reviews:

- *Reviews coming up in 2020 but have not all been scheduled due to COVID-19.*
 - University of Maine at Machias was scheduled for the beginning of April 2020 but has been postponed. Martha Harris will be the Board Observer.
 - College of the Atlantic (COA) Review was scheduled for May 3 to 5, 2020 and was postponed. Wendy will be the Board Observer. COA has asked about the potential of an on-line review. The DOE Higher Education team would prefer a face-to-face review.
 - Bates College Review will be in September – need a Board Observer.
 - University of New England (UNE) will be in October – need a Board Observer.
 - University of Maine CAEP review is upcoming with both the State and CAEP reviews.
- Jane Sexton requested that Jason provide a data table showing the dates of reviews upcoming in 2021.
- Angel Loreda suggested that colleges make official written requests to the C&HE Committee if they wish for a virtual site review.
- Jason Libby has been in close contact with the University of Maine at Machias, College of Atlantic, Bates College, and the University of New England.
- The Committee will continue discussion at the June 24, 2020 meeting.

Review of Colby College Team Report:

Colby College (Wendy Ault was the board observer) – The Committee received the report of findings at the January 22, 2020 meeting to review and discuss at the February 26, 2020 Committee meeting. The Board voted to receive the report at the February 12, 2020 full Board meeting. The Committee’s February 26, 2020 agenda included review and discussion of the Colby report, however, time did not permit for review. The Board planned to review the team report of findings at the March 25, 2020 meeting, however the meeting was canceled due to COVID-19. The April 23, 2020 meeting was canceled as well. The Colby College report was then placed on the May 27, 2020 meeting agenda, however time, again, did not permit for review.

Due to individuals from the Committee and DOE staff committed to attend other Zoom meetings and meeting time coming to an end, the Committee agreed to meet on June 10, 2020 prior to the State Board business meeting. The Committee will meet virtually via Zoom from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM to focus on the review of the Colby report.

Annual Report – Due date is April 7:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. Reports that have been received by Jason Libby and forwarded to Committee Members:

Annual Report From:	Date Received:
Bates College	February 10, 2020
Bowdoin College	January 27, 2020
College of the Atlantic	April 7, 2020
Eastern Maine Community College	April 7, 2020
Husson University	April 9, 2020
Saint Joseph’s College	May 13, 2020
University of Maine Farmington	April 6, 2020
University of Maine at Machias	April 16, 2020
University of Southern Maine	April 7, 2020

- Jason Libby will send a reminder request to colleges that have not submitted their annual report. Jane Sexton suggested that Jason note in his reminder that the reporting period end date is August 31, 2019 so there is no need to mention COVID-19 in their annual report.

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes of the February 26, 2020 meeting
- 3) Certification News from Stephanie Fyfe
- 4) UMA Team Review of Findings
- 5) Colby College Team Review of Findings
- 6) Annual Reports received to date
- 7) Chapter 114 Rule: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Preparation Programs for Education Personnel
 - Jane Sexton – Standard 2: Assessment System and Unit Evaluation
 - Jana Lapoint – Standard 3: Field Experiences and Clinical Practice
 - Wendy Ault – Standard 4: Diversity

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 9:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment: The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.