



Certification and Higher Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the October 28, 2020 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair, Wendy Ault; Fern Desjardins; Casey Maddock; and Wilson Hess (Board Members). Deputy Commissioner Daniel Chuhta; Angel Loreda, Director of Higher Education and Educator Support Services; Jason Libby, Higher Education Specialist; (Department of Education) and Mary Becker, State Board Secretary Specialist.

Excused: Jana Lapoint

Guests: No guests

Chair, Wendy Ault called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM.

Wendy Ault welcomed student member Casey Maddock to the Committee. Casey is a senior at Scarborough High School and has an interest in serving on the Certification and Higher Education Committee.

Public Comment:

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the September 23, 2020 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 6, 2020 minutes as presented.

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the October 8, 2020 minutes as presented.

Certification Office Update: *(Angel Loreda for Stephanie Fyfe)*

MEIS Info – Online System:

- Since the Executive Order, 1,324 applications have been received.
- Since the September 23rd meeting, the Certification Office has received 650 applications which is included in the 1,324.
- Currently, 11% of the applications (144) are pending. These applications are missing information.
- Many applications are from out-of-state (Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Vermont). Angel Loreda was asked to report the number of applicants with no Praxis scores. Fern Desjardins requested a report breaking down different areas and where the need is with certification.
- The process is going well.
- Angel Loreda reported on conditional and professional certificates (Chapter 115, Part II). He reminded the Committee that the Praxis was waived under an executive order due to COVID-19.

Higher Education Update: *(Jason Libby)*

Update on Team Reports:

- *Review Team schedules –*
 - *UMaine review – December 2020 – CAEP Review will be held virtually. Fern Desjardins will serve as the Board Observer. It was decided that the Board observer for the CAEP review and the State review should be the same person and be a member of the C&HE Committee.*
 - *Bates review – September of 2020 - delayed*
 - *UNE review – October of 2020 - delayed*
 - *UMaine at Machias – Requested delay to April 2020 – Pandemic moved review to November of 2020 - delayed*
- *College of the Atlantic (COA) expressed concerns regarding a review in the Spring.*

In January 2021, the Committee will revisit the status of the reviews.

UNE's Graduate Education Program:

At the September 23, 2020 C&HE Committee meeting, Jason Libby requested that the Committee further discuss the UNE Graduate Education Program which requires approval for its education program and special education endorsement areas. A delay in the review could potentially affect this program. The review is an initial approval and not a renewal.

After much discussion, it was suggested that Jason Libby provide a recommendation for the Committee to consider at the October 28, 2020 meeting.

Jason had a meeting with UNE. Following that conversation, he created a format that could be followed to review the Inclusion degree program. Jason shared the format with the Committee.

Format:

- 1) Unit Introduction
 - a. Overview of College with a focus on the inclusion degree
- 2) Dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies (CGPS) and Associate Dean of Academic Operations, along with the Education Program Director
- 3) Coursework exemplar(s) on Blackboard
- 4) Session with current or former students of the program
- 5) Local educational leader(s)
- 6) Follow-up time for additional questions

Online Exhibit Room

- Curriculum map
- Notes from curriculum committee meetings that detail past decisions and future plans for Inclusion courses
- Course syllabi with outcomes for all Inclusion courses
- CV's for faculty members that teach Inclusion coursework
- Exemplars from the program to highlight student work (portfolio, etc.)
- Program data related to enrollment, alumni, etc.

At the Committee's suggestion, Mary Becker, will send the format to Jana Lapoint for her review and comment, as she was not available for the October 28th meeting and agreed to serve as the Board observer.

Review of Action Agenda (2021):**Discussion Starters:**

Teacher training and certification to meet teacher shortage and maintain quality

- Conduct a comprehensive reauthorization for Chapter 115 Rule using inclusive processes**
- Encourage reciprocity reform
- Review Praxis scores as a credentialing standard

** On-going DOE or Legislative initiative

Review of Annual Reports:

Annual Report – Due date was April 7, 2020:

- The reporting period is from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.
- The Committee reviewed the Thomas College report
- Colby College – pending receipt

2021 Draft SBE Meeting Calendar Review:

The Committee reviewed the 2021 meeting calendar and at this time the C&HE Committee will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The November 24th meeting will be moved to November 17, 2021.

Rules that impact Certification and Higher Education Committee:

- Chapter 13: Qualifying Examinations for Teachers, Educational Specialists, and Administrators – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 114: Purpose, Standards and Procedures for the Review and Approval of Educational Personnel Preparation Programs – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 119: Adjudicatory Proceedings on Certification Issues – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 138: State Accreditation Standards and Processes – *Joint Rule*
- Chapter 149: Procedures for Obtaining Authorization for Institutions of Higher Education to Confer Academic Degrees or to Offer Degree Courses/Programs In the State of Maine – *State Board Rule*
- Chapter 170: Evaluating Requests for Degree Authorization (Maine and Out-of-State Institutions – *State Board Rule*

Other Business:

Wendy Ault referenced a letter dated June 24, 2020 from Senator Rebecca Millett and Representative Victoria Kornfield to Commissioner Makin, Wilson Hess, and Peter Geiger. The letter requested an analysis of whether the Praxis is an appropriate measure to determine the qualifications of teachers in the State. Deputy Commissioner Chuhta reported that there are ongoing conversations about a response. Wilson Hess offered to prepare a document for the Committee to review regarding Praxis.

Following much discussion, the Committee will stay informed of any action.

Meeting Handouts:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Draft Minutes – September 23, 2020
- 3) Draft Minutes – October 6, 2020
- 4) Draft Minutes – October 8, 2020
- 5) Thomas College Annual Report
- 6) Action Agenda – 2021

The next regular Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 10:30 AM. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Fern Desjardins, seconded by Wendy Ault, to adjourn the October 28, 2020 Certification and Higher Education Committee meeting at 11:54 AM.