



The University of North Carolina

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Erskine Bowles *EBB*

DATE: September 27, 2007

SUBJECT: Licensure of South College-Asheville to offer a new degree program in Asheville, NC

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is charged under North Carolina General Statute Section 116-15 with responsibility for licensing nonpublic educational institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina. In November 2004, the Board of Governors approved revisions to the document, *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Degree Activity in North Carolina*. This document provides the guidelines for interpreting the standards, and the rules, regulations, and procedures under which the Board issues licenses to institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina.

South College-Asheville applied for licensure to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Radiological Sciences at its Asheville campus.

Dr. Laurel Files, special assistant to the vice president for academic planning for licensure, reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if South College-Asheville complied with the licensure standards outlined in *Rules and Standards*. On June 12, 2007, the team of examiners visited the campus of South College-Asheville. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report with suggestions and recommendations, and a final recommendation to grant licensure to the one proposed degree program. Dr. Files agrees with the team's review and recommendations. For more details on the recommendations and the responses for the proposed degree programs, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Program of the UNC Board of Governors that a regular license be issued to South College-Asheville to offer the Bachelor of Science in Radiological Sciences proposed degree program in Asheville, North Carolina, subject to annual reports and review at any time. After one year has elapsed following licensure, South College-Asheville will be reviewed again, to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR SOUTH COLLEGE, ASHEVILLE, NC

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

South College-Asheville was founded in 1905 as Cecils Business College. On November 1, 1998, South College of North Carolina, Inc. purchased Cecils College from Executive Schools, Inc. Subsequently, in February 2002, Cecils College was renamed South College-Asheville. (South College in Knoxville, Tennessee is under the same ownership as South College-Asheville.)

South College-Asheville is a private, co-educational, nonsectarian academic institution that offers various academic programs at the certificate, associate, and baccalaureate levels. The Board of Governors initially approved licensure for South College-Asheville to offer degrees in 1975. Currently, South College-Asheville is authorized to offer the Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies, and the Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Medical Assisting, Network Technology, Office Technology, Paralegal Studies, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Radiologic Technology.

South College-Asheville is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS). The Medical Assisting program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs on recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation for Medical Assistant Education.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

South College-Asheville submitted an application and supporting documentation to General Administration for a proposed Bachelor of Science degree in Radiological Sciences on April 16, 2007. On its June 12, 2007 visit to South College-Asheville in response to this application, the team of examiners also reviewed the College's compliance with the Recommendations contained in the report of the team of examiners that had visited the College on November 14-15, 2005 to review the licensure application for the now licensed Associate of Applied Science degree program in Radiologic Technology.

Accordingly, a team of examiners with expertise in the specific disciplines relating to the application was assembled by Dr. Laurel Files, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Planning for Licensure. The team included Dr. Richard E. Neel (Chair), Dean Emeritus, Belk College of Business, and Professor of Economics Emeritus, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina; Dr. Ron E. Proffitt, Vice President of Instruction and Student Affairs, Wytheville Community College, Wytheville, Virginia (Dr. Proffitt has also been the team chair for the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Radiography, and has served on the Board of Medicine for Radiography in Virginia); and Dr. Laurel A. Files, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Planning for Licensure, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, *Ex Officio*.

The June 2007 visit to South College-Asheville was to ascertain the institution's compliance, for the proposed baccalaureate program, with the fifteen standards contained in The University of North Carolina Board of Governors *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina* (revised November 2004) (referred to in the rest of this summary as the *Rules and Standards*).

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous faculty and staff. This included meetings with John T. South, Jr., Chairman of the Board, South College of North Carolina, Inc.; Stephen A South, President, South College of North Carolina, Inc.; Robert Davis, Dean of Academic Affairs; Jane Sims, Department Chair, Radiologic Technology; Natalie Branch, Director of Clinical Education, Radiologic Technology; Amy Boggess, Head Librarian; Jessica Boing, Assistant Librarian; Jason Fair, Director of Financial Aid; Anne Moss, Office Manager; and Michael Wiseman, Director of Admissions.

DEGREE PROGRAM

South College-Asheville is applying for licensure to offer the BS in Radiological Sciences. Students will take 72 quarter credits in the core curriculum and 122 quarter credits in their major curriculum, and will be able to graduate in three-and-a-half years of full-time study. Major studies courses for this degree will include introduction to health administration, fundamentals of sectional anatomy, introduction to picture archiving communication systems, advanced patient care procedures, forensic radiology, understanding computed tomography, health science research, health care law, and current trends and issues in radiological sciences. The program emphasizes knowledge and skills related to communication, leadership, ethics, critical thinking, and cultural diversity in health care.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the visit, the team submitted to General Administration a *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Licensure Visit to Review South College-Asheville's Licensed Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in Radiologic Technology and Proposed Bachelor of Science Degree Program In Radiological Sciences, on June 27, 2007*. The preliminary report of the team's findings was forwarded to South College-Asheville for correction of factual errors or significant omissions, and for review of the team's two recommendations and three suggestions.

The recommendations were with respect to faculty, specifically to employ one additional faculty member to teach in the proposed degree program who holds at least the master's degree or the equivalent in the field of specialization in which he/she is teaching, as well as to employ faculty to teach the general education courses in the proposed program who, at the time of their employment, hold the master's degree or the doctoral degree in the field of specialization in which they are teaching (or at least a master's degree with a minimum of 18 graduate semester credit hours in that field).

South College-Asheville responded to the *Preliminary Report* on July 16, 2007, including the team's two recommendations and three suggestions. The institution responded with two

corrections that were then included in the report. On July 30, 2007, the team of examiners informed Dr. Files that South College-Asheville had responded satisfactorily to all of the recommendations, and recommended licensure for their proposed degree program.

The team stated that if licensure is granted, a further recommendation is that a team of examiners visit South College-Asheville one year from the date of licensure to review the Bachelor of Science in Radiological Sciences degree program for compliance with all of the recommendations contained in their report, as well as for overall compliance with the fifteen licensure standards contained in the *Rules and Standards*.

Dr. Laurel Files, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Planning for Licensure, agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the Bachelor of Science in Radiological Sciences degree program, as indicated above.