



The University of North Carolina

POST OFFICE BOX 2688, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2688

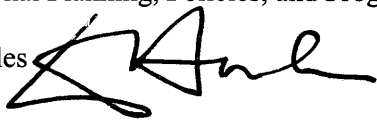
ERSKINE B. BOWLES, *President*

Telephone: (919) 962-1000 FAX: (919) 845-9695

E-mail: ebowles@northcarolina.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Erskine Bowles 

DATE: August 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Licensure of Lesley University to offer degree programs in one or more of the following areas: Laurinburg/Scotland county, Durham suburban area, and the Charlotte area

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is charged under North Carolina General Statute Section 116-15 with responsibility for licensing non-public 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.

Lesley University applied for licensure to offer the following degree programs in North Carolina: Master of Education (MEd) in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Integrated Teaching through the Arts; Master of Education (MEd) in Curriculum and Instruction, with a specialization in Literacy: Language, Reading and Writing; Master of Education (MEd) in Technology in Education; and Master of Education (MEd) in Elementary Education: Profession and Practice. These programs would be offered in one or more of the following areas: Laurinburg/Scotland County, Durham suburban area, and the outskirts of Charlotte.

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 Lesley University complied with the licensure standards outlined in *Rules and Standards*. On March 20, 2007, the team of examiners visited the Cambridge, Massachusetts, campus of Lesley University. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report with suggestions and recommendations, and a final recommendation to grant licensure to the proposed degree programs. Dr. Files agrees with the team's review and recommendations. For more details on the recommendations and the responses for the proposed degree programs by Lesley University, 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 Lesley University to offer the proposed degree programs at the proposed sites in North Carolina, subject to annual reports and review at any time. After one year has elapsed following licensure, Lesley University will be reviewed again, to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

Appalachian State University

East Carolina University

Elizabeth City State University

Fayetteville State University

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

North Carolina Central University

North Carolina School of the Arts

North Carolina State University at Raleigh

University of North Carolina at Asheville

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Western Carolina University

Winston-Salem State University

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action
Employer

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR LESLEY UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE, MA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Lesley University, incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is a not-for-profit, co-educational, private university, with campuses in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts. The university, with its current and predecessor names, has been in continuous operation since 1901 and is governed by a Board of Trustees that has specific policy-making authority over the institution.

Lesley has program sites in regional, national, and international locations, as well as online, hybrid (site-based and online), and low-residency offerings. The university offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in education, the arts, human services, the environment, and a variety of other fields, and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. Lesley is currently approved by the appropriate state bodies to offer master's degree programs in 23 states including Washington.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

In November 2006, Lesley University submitted an application and related documents to offer the following master's degree programs at one or more sites in North Carolina: Master of Education (MEd) in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Integrated Teaching through the Arts; Master of Education (MEd) in Curriculum and Instruction, with a specialization in Literacy: Language, Reading and Writing; Master of Education (MEd) in Technology in Education; and Master of Education (MEd) in Elementary Education: Profession and Practice.

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. Particular attention was paid to identifying team members who represented public and private institutions. The team included Dr. Richard E. Neel (chair), Dean Emeritus, Belk College of Business Administration, and Professor of Economics Emeritus, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Charles J. Popovich, Head Librarian, Business Library, and Associate Professor, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. John A. Swope, Interim Dean, College of Education, and Associate Professor of Education, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina; and Laurel Files, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Planning for Licensure (ex-officio).

The March 20, 2007 visit to the Cambridge campus of Lesley University was to ascertain the institution's compliance, for the four proposed master's degrees, 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 Lesley faculty, staff, and students. These meetings included Dr. Martha B. McKenna, Provost; Carol Streit, Associate Provost and

Vice President of Enrollment Management; Jackie Armitage, Vice President of National Planning and Administration; Dr. Mario Borunda, Dean, School of Education; Dr. Julie Halevy, Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences; Dr. Cindy Brown, Senior Associate Dean, School of Education; Dr. Joe Cambone, Associate Dean, School of Education; Dr. Lorraine Greenfield, Program Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. George Blakeslee, Co-Director of Technology in Education; Dr. Lisa Donovan, Director of Integrated Teaching through the Arts; Patricia Payne, Director of Libraries; Kathy Holmes, Assistant Library Director; Rebecca Petersen, Director of Academic Technology; Scott James, Associate Vice-President of Enrollment Management; Melissa Janot, University Registrar; M.L. Dymski, Vice President for Budgeting and Financial Planning; Anna Johnson, Associate Director, Financial Aid, Graduate and Adult Learning Programs; Alice Diamond, Associate Dean of Career Resource Center; Michelle Chaurette, Director of Student Care, National Programs; Annette MacLean, Regional Operations Manager; Linda Pursley, Director of Assessment and Institutional Research; Christina Jaracz, Regional Director and Recruitment Trainer; Robin Peevey, Director, State Regulations and Regulatory Affairs. Also faculty members Dr. Marianne Reiff, Dr. Abe Abadi, Kerrie Bellisario, Dr. Berata Berriz, Dr. Gene Diaz, Dr. Mary McMackin, Dr. Stephanie Spadorcia, Dr. Bill Barowy, Marcia Kessler, Mike Pabian, and Sven Holch; and students Bernice Petrovick, Alyson Whatcott, Kiersten Cummings, Maureen Giacobbe, Laura Paladi, Sarah Jane Anderson, Sally Rogers, Keith Calwell, and Jeffrey Billard.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

The master's degree programs to be offered in North Carolina will be offered by faculty at the site(s). In the intensive weekend format, students meet with a faculty member for two full weekends, for a total of 23 contact hours per weekend (Friday evening through Sunday). The two weekends typically are scheduled four weeks apart, so that the students have time both to complete their course assignments and begin applying the course content to their own professional practices. The full Master of Education degree program in Technology in Education may also be taken completely online (in asynchronous courses). The university states that the academic standards for courses to be delivered off-campus or electronically in North Carolina will be the same as the academic standards for courses delivered at the institution where they originate. Instructors use private email, group emails, interventions in discussion forums, and sometimes real time interaction to provide guidance and feedback to individual students and groups of students. Before an instructor teaches online they spend a semester as a training assistant in an online course, working with the assigned faculty and taking on a portion of the course. Also, each online course is assigned a core faculty mentor who provides instructors with a model syllabus and ongoing support. Instructors are also provided with technical and academic assistance as well as electronic resources. All students progress as a cohort group through an 11-course sequence that requires at least 33 semester credit hours and takes approximately 22 months to complete; the average time to completion for the Master of Education degree enrollees is 2.5 years.

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 Lesley University's Proposed Master's Degree Programs at One or More Sites in North Carolina, on April 24, 2007. The preliminary report of the team's findings was forwarded to Lesley University for correction of factual errors or significant omissions.

The team made fourteen recommendations and four suggestions. The recommendations were as follows: Five of these had to do with the publication of specific information in the school catalog or other noted publications; two required documentation of specific compliance requirements; and three were with regard to the library—recommended cooperative agreement with a local library, link to NC LIVE, and database acquisition. Two recommendations addressed attention to faculty qualifications, and the complement of full-time faculty, once the new programs are in place. One recommendation was that licensure for the delivery of streaming video and the digitizing of the slide collection be supported and funded by Lesley University beyond the stage of a pilot project. And, finally, there was the standard requirement for a statement by an independent certified public accountant, at the end of the first fiscal year at its North Carolina site, specifying the existing principal amount of the tuition guaranty bond.

Lesley University responded to the Preliminary Report on July 11, 2007, including the team's fourteen recommendations and four suggestions. On July 17, 2007, the team of examiners informed Dr. Files that Lesley University had responded satisfactorily to all of the recommendations and recommended licensure for Lesley University for the four proposed Master's degree programs.

The team stated that if licensure is granted, a further recommendation is that a team of examiners visit the North Carolina site(s) of Lesley University one year from the date of licensure to review the four master's degree programs 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 four master's degree programs, as indicated above.