



The University of North Carolina

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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University of
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School of the Arts

Western Carolina
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Alan Mabe

DATE: February 1, 2011

SUBJECT: Recommended Approval of Programs for Licensure

Background: From 1923 to 1963, the State Board of Education licensed nonpublic institutions to confer degrees in North Carolina. In 1963, the General Assembly transferred this responsibility to the State Board of Higher Education. In 1972, the General Assembly dissolved the State Board of Higher Education and assigned the responsibility for licensure to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina.

Thus, the Board of Governors 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 accord with rules, regulations and procedures it establishes. This includes all institutions that were not grandfathered in at the time of the 1972 statute and any out-of-state institution (public or private) seeking to offer postsecondary degree activity in North Carolina. The General Assembly clearly intended that post-secondary degree activity be carefully overseen in the State to protect the citizens of North Carolina from consumer fraud or deceptive acts or practices.

Jurisdictional Authority: The General Statutes of the State of North Carolina specify that the powers and duties of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, in addition to those related to governance of the constituent institutions of the University, include regulatory authority to issue to certain nonpublic post-secondary educational institutions licensure to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina. The statute pertaining to such licensing, North Carolina General Statutes Section 116-15, is reproduced in the Appendix to the Rules and Standards to be found at the UNC Website at http://www.northcarolina.edu/aa_planning/licensure/Rules__Standards__Master_Updated_1-081.pdf.

Issues Involved: Kaplan has had some recent problems but their request was held up and Kaplan was asked to respond explicitly to those issues and to provide assurance that the practices in question would not occur in NC. Only after those assurances were received from Kaplan did this go forward.

The University of Southern Californian is offering the program online, but will have student teaching sites in NC, which triggers the need for their program to be licensed in NC.

Recommended Action: Based on the proposed programs meeting the Board's requirements for licensure, the President recommends the awarding licensure to these programs.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: President Tom Ross 

DATE: January 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Licensure of the University of Southern California

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 Post-Secondary 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.

The University of Southern California has applied for licensure to offer exclusively online the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program with the following two specializations:

- Multiple subject (sometimes referred to as elementary education)
- Single subject in the following four subject matter areas: English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science.

Dr. Frank Prochaska reviewed the application and appointed a team of examiners to determine if USC complied with the licensure standards outlined in *Rules and Standards*. On June 15, 2010, the team of examiners visited the Los Angeles, CA, campus. Following the site visit, the team of examiners issued its report which contained recommendations. Dr. Prochaska agrees with the team's review. For more details on the degree program and report, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs of the UNC Board of Governors that a regular license be issued to the University of Southern California to offer the above-named degree program with two specializations, subject to annual reports and review at any time. The program will be reviewed within one calendar year of its initiation in North Carolina to judge whether the institution continues to maintain standards for licensure.

Enclosure: Summary

SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Southern California (USC), located in Los Angeles, is a private, not-for-profit institution currently enrolling approximately 35,000 students. Since its establishment in 1880, it has conferred degrees on more than a quarter-million graduates. USC is authorized to operate in the State of California, where all instructional activity originates.

The University of Southern California is regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

The University of Southern California has applied for licensure to offer exclusively online the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree program with the following two specializations:

- A. Multiple subject (sometimes referred to as elementary education)
- B. Single subject in the following four subject matter areas:
 - English
 - Mathematics
 - Science
 - Social Science

Dr. Frank Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs of The University of North Carolina General Administration, appointed the team of examiners to evaluate the University of Southern California's compliance with the licensure 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. The visit to the University of Southern California took place on June 15, 2010.

The team of examiners with expertise in the subject matter of this application was comprised of:

- 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. Betty Cooper Epanchin, Associate Dean of Teacher Education, College of Education, and Professor of Education, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina
- Dr. Karen Gavigan, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
- Dr. John A. Swope, Associate Dean, College of Education, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina
- Dr. Frank T. Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of North Carolina General Administration, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, *Ex Officio*

The team's task was to review the application and accompanying exhibits and to participate in the site visit to determine if the institution demonstrated compliance with licensure standards. Either

prior to the visit or during the visit, many additional items of documentation were reviewed by the team including course syllabi, library resources (both print and electronic), instructional resources, computer resources, educational facilities, faculty curriculum vitae, audited financial statements, student enrollment data, promotional brochures, the 2009-2010 University of Southern California Catalogue, the *USC Faculty Handbook*, and the *MAT@USC Student Handbook*.

During the visit, the team of examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the University of Southern California.

PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM

Master of Arts in Teaching

The online M.A.T. program at the University of Southern California is designed to prepare teachers at the graduate level in elementary education, English, mathematics, science, and social science. The program has a mission of preparing teachers who can teach all students and who can be effective when teaching in challenging educational environments, including both urban and rural settings. Teaching licensure will be obtained in California and then through reciprocity in North Carolina. (USC uses a “MAT@USC Informed Consent” form which students fill out at the beginning of their program that explains these licensure issues and processes.) The Master of Arts in Teaching program requires a minimum of 32 graduate semester credit hours to complete.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Licensure Visit to Review the University of Southern California’s Proposed Online Master of Arts in Teaching Degree Program* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners included five recommendations and no suggestions. The recommendations addressed issues of faculty credentials, the tuition guaranty bond, and information to be included in the Catalogue/brochures for North Carolina students.

The team of examiners concludes its report by stating it would make its recommendation to the General Administration of The University of North Carolina regarding the licensure of the proposed degree program after it receives the response from USC to the recommendations contained in the report.

After receiving the team of examiners’ report, the University of Southern California responded to the recommendations. All of the recommendations have been implemented to the satisfaction of the team of examiners.

After reviewing the institution’s response, the team of examiners recommends that USC be licensed to offer the online Master of Arts in Teaching program in North Carolina.

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team’s review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends licensure of the University of Southern California’s online Master of Arts in Teaching program with the following two specializations: Multiple Subject

(elementary education), and Single Subject in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Science.

The program will be reviewed within one calendar year of its initiation in North Carolina, by a team of examiners with expertise in the field, to ascertain the University of Southern California's compliance with the *Rules and Standards*, including the recommendations contained in the report.