



The University of North Carolina

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs

FROM: Thomas W. Ross

DATE: August 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Licensure of Webber International University

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.

Webber International University located in Babson Park, Florida, has applied for a two-year interim licensure permit to designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College, located in Laurinburg, North Carolina, as an additional instructional location of Webber. The two institutions signed a formal merger Agreement on April 22, 2011. There are no plans to change the degree programs offered by St. Andrews as a result of its being designated an additional instructional location of Webber International University. In the future, should Webber choose to offer some of its degree programs on the St. Andrews campus, those Webber programs will need to be appropriately licensed by the Board of Governors.

Webber International University's application was reviewed by a team of examiners appointed by Dr. Frank Prochaska. The team of examiners visited Webber International University on July 12, 2011. Following the visit, the team of examiners issued its report. Dr. Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. For more details on the site visit and application, please review the summary.

Thus, I recommend to the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs of the UNC Board of Governors that Webber International University be granted a two-year interim licensure permit to designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College as an additional instructional location of Webber. Before the end of the period of the interim permit, Webber International University will be re-evaluated to determine if it qualifies for a regular license. Also, if the interim permit is approved, a site visit to St. Andrews Presbyterian College will be performed within two calendar years to ascertain Webber International University's compliance with the *Rules and Standards*.

Enclosure: Summary

**SUMMARY OF VISIT OF TEAM OF EXAMINERS FOR WEBBER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
FOR AN INTERIM LICENSURE PERMIT TO DESIGNATE ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE
AS AN ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL LOCATION**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Webber International University (Webber), a nonprofit, private educational institution located in Babson Park, Florida, has applied for an interim licensure permit to designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College (St. Andrews), which is located in Laurinburg, North Carolina, as an additional instructional location of Webber. The two institutions signed a formal merger Agreement on April 22, 2011. St. Andrews Presbyterian College has been operating in North Carolina as a traditional private not-for-profit college since 1958, and, as such, was declared by the UNC Board of Governors in 1974 to be exempt from the requirement of licensure.

Webber International University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). St. Andrews Presbyterian College's SACS membership and accreditation ended on July 31, 2011 due to concern by SACS about St. Andrews' debt obligations. Under the terms of the Agreement, Webber will designate St. Andrews as an additional instructional location of Webber, which will mean that St. Andrews is encompassed within the scope of Webber's accreditation by SACS and that St. Andrews' students will be eligible for Title IV Federal Student Financial Aid through Webber. The merger was approved by SACS at the June 2011 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the SACS Commission on Colleges.

Webber was originally established in 1927 as a women's college, with the exclusive purpose of teaching women about business. It was the first school chartered under the educational and charitable laws of the State of Florida as a non-profit organization. Webber International University has been in continuous operation since its founding in 1927, with students enrolled in degree programs each semester since its inception.

The history of St. Andrews began in 1896 with the founding of Flora Macdonald College in Red Springs, NC. In 1958, Flora Macdonald College merged with Presbyterian Junior College in Maxton, NC, to establish St. Andrews, which moved to its current location in Laurinburg in 1961.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Webber International University has applied for an interim permit to designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College as an additional instructional location of Webber.

Pursuant to the Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina, Dr. Frank Prochaska, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at UNC General Administration, appointed a team of examiners to visit the institution and evaluate its compliance with the licensure standards. The visit to Webber International University occurred on July 12, 2011.

The team of examiners 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. Frank 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 were reviewed by the team including educational facilities, instructional resources, computer resources, enrollment data, budget data, audited financial statements, Webber International University's 2010-2012 Catalog, Webber International University's "Strategic Vision and Plan" (July, 2011), Webber International University's Faculty Handbook, and Webber International University's 2010 -2011 Student Handbook.

During the visit, the team of examiners met with Dr. Keith Wade, President and CEO; with Dr. Charles Shieh, Chief Academic Officer/Academic Dean; and with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of Webber International University.

After the merger, the correct designation of the St. Andrews campus is "St. Andrews Presbyterian College, an additional instructional location of Webber International University." There are no plans to change the degree programs offered by St. Andrews as a result of its being designated an additional instructional location of Webber International University. In the future, should Webber choose to offer some of its degree programs on the St. Andrews campus, those Webber programs will need to be appropriately licensed by the Board of Governors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the *Preliminary Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Visit to Review Webber International University's Application for Licensure to Designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College as an Additional Instructional Location* was submitted. In the report, the team of examiners presented no suggestions and five recommendations. The recommendations addressed issues of the tuition guaranty bond and actions that Webber will need to take should it decide to offer some of its degree programs on the St. Andrews campus.

The team of examiners concludes its report by stating it recommends that Webber International University be granted a two-year interim permit to designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College as an additional instructional location of Webber, subject to compliance with the recommendations contained in the report.

After receiving the team of examiners' report, Webber International University responded to the recommendations to the satisfaction of the team of examiners.

APPENDIX F

Dr. Frank Prochaska agrees with the team's review and recommendations. Thus, General Administration recommends that Webber International University be granted a two-year interim licensure permit to designate St. Andrews Presbyterian College as an additional instructional location.

Before the end of the period of the interim permit, Webber International University must apply for a regular license. Also, if the interim permit is approved, a site visit to St. Andrews Presbyterian College will be performed within two calendar years to ascertain Webber International University's compliance with the *Rules and Standards*.