

AGENDA ITEM

A-4. Licensure Program ApprovalsKimberly van Noort

Situation: The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina is charged under N.C.G.S. 116-15 with responsibility for licensing nonpublic educational institutions to conduct post-secondary degree activity in North Carolina.

Background: The following institutions have applied for licensure:

- The Chamberlain College of Nursing, to offer the Master of Science in Nursing–Family Nurse Practitioner degree and graduate certificates in Nursing Education and Nursing Informatics online in North Carolina.
- Living University, to offer online in North Carolina, an associate of arts degree, two baccalaureate degree minors, and undergraduate general education courses.
- Western Governors University, to offer post-secondary teacher education degree programs in North Carolina.

Assessment: After appropriate review of the licensure application, including site visits by a team of examiners, UNC General Administration recommends approval of licensure for the following:

- The Chamberlain College of Nursing, to offer the proposed degree programs.
- Living University, to offer the proposed degree programs.
- Western Governors University, to offer the proposed degree programs.

Action: This item requires a vote by the Committee, with a full Board vote through the consent agenda.

TO: President Margaret Spellings
RE: UNCGA Staff Report and Recommendations for Authorization and Licensure
**FROM: Kimberly van Noort, Vice President for Academic Programs, Faculty,
And Research**
DATE: February 13, 2017

After careful consideration of the Team of Examiners' Reports, institutional responses, and various consultations, we present the following proposals and attendant recommendations for your consideration.

Chamberlain College of Nursing – Downers Grove, IL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Chamberlain College of Nursing is a private, for-profit institution that is a subsidiary of DeVry, Inc. The Deaconess College of Nursing was established in 1889 in St. Louis, Missouri for the purpose of educating Deaconess Sisters as professional nurses. In 2005, DeVry, Inc. acquired the college and changed its name to Chamberlain College of Nursing. The college has been in continuous operation since 1889. While Chamberlain has physical campuses in ten states, the national headquarters is located in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Chamberlain is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

The Chamberlain College of Nursing has applied for licensure to offer the following degree and certificate programs online in North Carolina:

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) – Family Nurse Practitioner
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Informatics

In accordance with the Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina, a Team of Examiners was appointed to review the application, visit the institution, and evaluate compliance with the licensure standards

On 5/22/13, a Team of Examiners conducted a site visit to the Chamberlain College of Nursing home office in Illinois to review three programs submitted for licensure in North Carolina. On 6/18/14, a subset of the review team conducted a second site visit to the Chamberlain campus in Houston, Texas. Prior to and during the visits, the Team of Examiners reviewed documentation submitted in the license application including curricula for the proposed degree programs; course syllabi; library resources (both print and electronic); faculty curriculum vita; instructional resources; educational facilities, including laboratories and equipment; audited financial statements; and the Chamberlain College of Nursing 2012-2013 Academic Catalog, Faculty Handbook, Student Handbook, and College Assessment Program.

During the two site visits, the Examiners met with numerous administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the Chamberlain College of Nursing.

After the two site visits, the institution submitted a supplemental application for the online nursing degree and graduate certificate programs. A subject matter expert was appointed in January 2015 to conduct a review of those programs.

At its October 24, 2014 meeting, the Board approved programs that were included in the Team of Examiners' report about the institution's compliance with the Rules and Standards for Licensure.

- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education and Nursing Informatics

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visits, the Team submitted its *Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners for the Visits to Review Chamberlain College of Nursing's Proposed Online Graduate Degree Programs and On-Ground BSN Program*. In the report, the Team of Examiners included eight suggestions and ten recommendations about the proposed degree programs. The recommendations addressed issues of educational laboratories, library resources, faculty credentials, the tuition guaranty bond, and information to be included in the Chamberlain College of Nursing Catalog and Student Handbook.

Upon review of the Team of Examiners' report, and Chamberlain College's response to the recommendations and suggestions of that report, the UNC General Administration staff finds that recommendations have been satisfactorily addressed, and recommends that Chamberlain College be licensed to offer the degree programs requested.

An appropriate review will be performed within two calendar years of the initiation of the licensed degree programs, by UNC GA, to ascertain the institution's compliance with the Rules and Standards, including the recommendations contained in the report.

Living University – Charlotte, North Carolina

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Living University is a non-profit institution sponsored by the Living Church of God. The university is currently authorized as a religious-exempt institution in Charlotte, North Carolina to offer the Associate of Theology and Bachelor of Theology degree programs. The institution also offers a number of religious education certificate and diploma programs. The university focuses on delivery of online coursework and offers no traditional "face-to-face" courses. Living University is not accredited by any agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

The university shares facilities with the Living Church of God in Charlotte, North Carolina in the church's international headquarters complex. The Living Church of God is the major financial supporter of the university through cash subsidies and other (non-cash) allocations.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Living University is seeking licensure to offer the following secular programs and courses online in North Carolina:

- Associate of Arts degree
- A baccalaureate degree minor in business
- A baccalaureate degree minor in communication
- Undergraduate courses in the arts and sciences, business and professional disciplines (accounting, business, education, nutrition, and physical education)

In accordance with the Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina, a Team of Examiners was appointed to review the application, visit the institution, and evaluate compliance with the licensure standards

The Team of Examiners conducted a site visit at the Living University campus in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 16, 2015. The Team evaluated the facilities and resources of the institution during its site visit and the following reports and documents before and during the visit: Living University's licensure/compliance application and the accompanying exhibits; curricula for the proposed programs; course syllabi; faculty credentials; library and electronic resources; budget data; annual financial reports; excerpts from the Living University Faculty Handbook; Living University Student Handbook 2014-2016; Living University Course Development Guide 2014; Living University Legislative Handbook for 2015-2016; Living University Strategic Long-Range Plan for 2013-2018; Living University Report on the Strategic Long-Range Plan Cycle 2 (2014-2018) and the Living University General Catalog 2015 – 2016.

The Team also reviewed written responses from the university about its implementation of best practices for delivering online/distance education programs. During the visit, the Team met with numerous faculty, administrators, staff and students of Living University.

A second site visit was conducted on September 9, 2016 to review Living University's new housing facilities for on-campus students.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After the site visit, the Team of Examiners submitted its *Report to the President of The University of North Carolina from the Team of Examiners to Review Living University's Proposed Associate of Arts Degree Program and Selected Courses to Be Offered Online in North Carolina*. The report included 15 recommendations and 3 suggestions concerning the proposed degree program and courses. The recommendations addressed issues of curriculum, faculty qualifications, library resources, staffing and facilities, and the tuition guaranty bond.

Upon review of the Team of Examiners' report, and Living University's response to the recommendations and suggestions of that report, the UNC General Administration staff finds that

recommendations have been satisfactorily addressed, and recommends that Living University be licensed to offer the degree programs requested.

An appropriate review will be performed within two calendar years of the initiation of the licensed degree programs, by UNC GA, to ascertain the institution's compliance with the Rules and Standards, including the recommendations contained in the report.

Western Governors University – Salt Lake City, Utah

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Western Governors University (WGU) was incorporated as a private, nonprofit online university in 1997. The university was founded and supported by 19 U.S. governors. WGU grew out of a 1995 bipartisan meeting of the Western Governors Association, with the agreement that it would make "maximum use of distance learning technologies, would be collaborative among the western member states, and would use competencies rather than seat time as the measure of its outcomes." The five themes critical to its design are: responsiveness to employment and societal needs, focus on competency-based education, expanding access, cost-effectiveness, and development of a technology infrastructure. The university describes itself as a teaching and non-research-based university.

All WGU programs follow the competency-based educational (CBE) model. In CBE programs, the academic credit that students receive for their course work is based on the demonstration of skills learned (outcomes or competencies), rather than on the amount of time spent in the classroom (typically measured by the credit hour). In its license application, WGU defines a competency unit (CU) as "the equivalent of one semester hour of learning in the traditional university." The university describes its competency-based program design process as "based on national and state educational and professional standards . . . [from which] competency statements and corresponding learning objectives are created." As part of this process, a working group creates expected course outcomes and a plan for assessing competency at the "appropriate cognitive level based on the content and the position of the course" in the standard path of courses identified for the program.

Western Governors University is chartered and approved by the State of Utah and is regionally accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The teacher education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

THE APPLICATION AND SITE VISIT

Western Governors University is proposing to offer the following academic programs online in North Carolina.

- ***BACHELOR OF ARTS, INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (K-8)***
- ***BACHELOR OF ARTS, SPECIAL EDUCATION (K-12)***
- ***BACHELOR OF ARTS, MATHEMATICS (2): Mathematics (5-9) and Mathematics (5-12)***

- **BACHELOR OF ARTS, SCIENCE (5):** Science (5-9), Biological Science (5-12), Chemistry (5-12), Geosciences (5-12), and Physics (5-12)
- **POST-BACCALAUREATE TEACHER PREPARATION (6):** ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (K-8), MATHEMATICS (5-9) and (5-12), SCIENCE (5-9) and (5-12), and SOCIAL SCIENCE (5-12)
- **MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (7):** Elementary Education (K-8), Mathematics (5-9) and (5-12), Science (5-9) and (5-12), Social Science (5-12), and English (5-12)
- **MASTER OF ARTS, MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (3):** K-6, 5-9, and 5-12
- **MASTER OF ARTS, SCIENCE EDUCATION (5):** Science Education (5-9), Biological Sciences (5-12), Chemistry (5-12), Geosciences (5-12), and Physics (5-12)
- **MASTER OF SCIENCE, SPECIAL EDUCATION (K-12)**
- **ENDORSEMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING**
- **MASTER OF ARTS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING (PREK-12)**
- **ENDORSEMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**
- **MASTER OF SCIENCE, EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**
- **MASTER OF SCIENCE, CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**
- **MASTER OF EDUCATION (2):** Instructional Design, and Learning and Technology

In accordance with the *Rules and Standards: Licensing Nonpublic Institutions to Conduct Post-Secondary Degree Activity in North Carolina*, a Team of Examiners was appointed to review the application, visit the institution, and evaluate compliance with the licensure standards.

The Team of Examiners conducted a site visit at Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah on March 30, 2016. The Team evaluated the facilities and resources of the university during its site visit, and reports and documents before and during the visit, including the following: the Western Governors University licensure/compliance application and the accompanying exhibits, course syllabi, faculty credentials, budget data, annual financial reports, the *WGU University Catalog*, Volume MMXVI, No. 2 (April 2016), and the *WGU Employee Handbook* (06-01-12).

During the visit, the Team of Examiners met with representatives of the WGU senior administration, faculty, staff and students.

On December 2, 2016, the Board of Governors approved degree programs in business and nursing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 153-page team report included 123 recommendations and 39 suggestions addressing the proposed 61 programs. The recommendations covered issues of faculty qualifications, faculty approval of the curriculum, program differentiation, program content, opportunities for collaboration, and student to mentor/faculty ratios.

Upon review of the Team of Examiners' report, and Western Governors University's response to the recommendations and suggestions of that report, the UNC General Administration staff finds that recommendations for the programs below have been satisfactorily addressed, and recommends that Western Governors University be licensed to offer the requested degree programs.

An appropriate review will be performed within two calendar years of the initiation of the licensed degree programs, by UNC GA, to ascertain the institution's compliance with the Rules and Standards, including the recommendations contained in the report.