

**CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Hartford**

**Legislation and Policy Development Committee Meeting
October 3, 2018**

**Minutes
(Approved 11/7/2018)**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Board of Education Legislation and Policy Development Committee met in the North Plaza, Meeting Room E, 450 Columbus Blvd., Hartford, Connecticut, on October 3, 2018.

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Joseph Vrabely called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Also present were Committee members: Erin Benham, William Davenport (by telephone), Donald Harris, Terry Jones, and Malia Sieve.

Board Member Robert Trefry was present as well.

Presenters: Dr. Sarah Barzee, Chief Talent Officer; Dr. Katie Moirs, Education Consultant and Committee Chair Vrabely.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were the following Department of Education staff members: Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey; Communications Director Peter Yazbak; Sheff Office Director Glen Peterson; Legal Director Peter Haberlandt; Attorney Robin Cecere and Recorder Mildred Pagán

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the September 5, 2018, Legislation and Policy Development Committee meeting.

III. Sacred Heart University (CAEP/State Continuing Approval)

Committee Chair Vrabely introduced Chief Talent Officer, Dr. Sarah Barzee, who briefly talked about the evaluation findings for Sacred Heart University's (SHU) continuing approval program. Dr. Barzee then introduced Dr. Katie Moirs who continued the presentation.

Dr. Moirs explained that during May 2015, based on visit findings by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and the recommendation of the SDE Review Committee, the State Board of Education (SBE) placed SHU on probationary approval through September 30, 2018.

Dr. Moirs indicated, however, that based on evaluation findings from a state required focused visit concerning issues identified in May 2015, the SBE granted full approval to SHU through November 30, 2018.

Dr. Moirs also stated that SHU hosted a CAEP accreditation visit during spring 2018. Based on the CAEP spring 2018 visit findings and the work completed by SHU since the visit, the SDE Review Committee recommended full continuing approval for SHU through spring 2025, which will align SHU with the state adopted CAEP seven-year visit cycle.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding SHU (CAEP/State Continuing Approval) program for consideration to the full Board.

IV. University of Saint Joseph (CAEP/State Continuing Approval)

Dr. Barzee also spoke about evaluation findings for University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) spring 2018 CAEP visit. Dr. Moirs continued the presentation.

Dr. Moirs explained that during the spring 2018 visit, a CAEP visiting team identified several areas for improvement for USJ. During a meeting on May 24, 2018, the SDE Review Committee initially recommended probationary approval. However, in an appeal for consideration of provisional, rather than probationary approval, USJ submitted all work to the SDE addressing all areas for improvements. Given the quality of the work, the SDE Review Committee is now recommending provisional approval, but retaining its original recommendation for a focused visit no later than spring 2021 and a progress report documenting continuous improvement work related to CAEP standards due annually until the visit.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding USJ (CAEP/State Continuing Approval) program for consideration to the full Board.

V. Fairfield University Italian Education Program (New Program Approvals)

Dr. Moirs continued the presentation. She indicated that Fairfield University, which is seeking approval to add an Italian program to their educator preparation program, was also part of an evaluation in spring 2018 by the SDE Review Committee. An initial review of the proposal indicated that Fairfield University needed to make two key updates to their program. Upon review of the updates, the proposal was moved to the SDE Review Committee for consideration.

In September 2018, after review of the proposal, the SDE Review Committee recommended full approval for the Fairfield University Italian program. Dr. Moirs stated that if approved by the SBE, the program will begin implementation during spring 2019, and be reviewed during the Fairfield University 2021 CAEP site visit. Additionally, the SDE will annually monitor this new program, along with all Fairfield University educator preparation programs.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding Fairfield University Italian Education Program (New Program Approvals) for consideration to the full Board.

VI. Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) – elementary education/bilingual education program, graduate level (New Program Approvals)

On this last topic, Dr. Moirs stated that Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) is approved through the SBE to offer an integrated elementary education/bilingual education program at the undergraduate level. However, it is now seeking approval for the program at the *graduate* level in order to offer the program as a post baccalaureate option.

During the fall of 2018, SCSU submitted program materials for the approved integrated elementary/bilingual education program at the undergraduate level for SDE review. SDE determined that the program remains in compliance with certification regulations and recommended to the SDE Review Committee that the program be approved at the graduate level.

In September 2018, the SDE Review Committee recommended full approval for this program at the graduate level. Dr. Moirs stated that if approved by the SBE, the program will begin implementation during spring 2019, and be reviewed during the SCSU 2021 CAEP site visit. Additionally, the SDE will annually monitor this new program, along with all SCSU educator preparation programs.

A discussion ensued with committee members asking a variety of questions, which Dr. Barzee and Dr. Moirs responded to accordingly.

On a motion made by Committee Chair Vrabely and seconded by Erin Benham, the Committee unanimously approved forwarding SCSU – elementary education/bilingual education program, graduate level (New Program Approvals) for consideration to the full Board.

VII. Discussion Regarding State Board of Education Position Statement on Public School Choice

Committee Chair Vrabely gave a brief overview of this topic which has been the focal point of discussion in the last two meetings. He reiterated that the purpose is to learn more about the issues and brainstorm on a viable resolution to the ongoing issues involving public school choice in Connecticut, specifically, the technical high schools and the vocational agricultural (agriscience) schools.

Mr. Davenport, who was present via telephone, stated that although these programs are successful and have been in existence for many years, the reality is that a lot of students are not able to get into these programs for lack of school funding.

A discussion ensued with members agreeing that there is not enough funding to go around for all school choice programs in Connecticut. Chief Financial Officer Kathy Demsey explained that funding is a major challenge, but only one piece of the puzzle because public school choice in Connecticut is complex and multi-faceted.

Committee Chair Vrabely stated discussion of this matter will continue at the November Committee meeting.

VIII. Other Matters

Committee Chair Vrabely thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mildred Pagán, Recorder