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Minutes **Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission** **May 14, 2024**

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met Wednesday, May 14, 2024, in Room 153 in the Claiborne Building. Prior to calling the meeting to order, the newest Commission member, Dr. Chandler LeBoeuf, LCTCS appointee, was introduced and administered the oath of office. Chair James Fontenot called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. The roll was then called by Ms. Courtney Britton and a quorum was established. There were no public comments to be read.

Commission Members Present

Melanie Amrhein, Vice Chair
Chris Broadwater
Sherrie Despino
James Fontenot, Chair
Chandler LeBoeuf
Randy Plaisance

Commission Members Absent

Benjamin Baudoin
Carmen Million

Staff Members Present

Courtney Britton
Dr. Susannah Craig
Chandra Cheatham
Antonio Williams

Guests Present

(See Appendix)

The first item of business was the approval of minutes from the Commission's meeting on March 12, 2024.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the March 12, 2024, Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was the Change of Ownership Applications for Unitech Training Academy. The individual schools are Unitech Training Academy – Alexandria, Unitech Training Academy – Baton Rouge, Unitech Training Academy – Houma, Unitech Training Academy – Lafayette, Unitech Training Academy – New Orleans, and Unitech Training Academy – West Monroe. All campuses offer programs in Dental Assisting,

EKG/Phlebotomy, Massage Therapy, Medical Assistant, Medical Office Assistant, and Pharmacy Technician. The Lafayette campus also offers several online IT and Coding programs. New owner Noah Brandon represented the school. Discussion included history of the school, impact of the schools on the various communities where campuses are located, future vision, and potential short-term programs for working professionals.

On motion of Melanie Amrhein, seconded by Chris Broadwater, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approved the change of ownership for all six (6) of the Unitech Training Academy locations in Louisiana.

The next items considered by the Commission were initial applications for licensure. The first initial license application was from MedEra Technical Institute, located in Hammond, LA and proposing to offer a two-week/80-hour program in Nurse Aide Training. Owner India Brumfield represented the school. Discussion included the feasibility of the accelerated CNA program, the difference between Nurse Aide vs. CNA, refresher courses and the potential revenue option, background of owner and reason for starting a school, program structure and potential challenges, and plan for potential challenges to meet testing plan.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for MedEra Technical Institute, Hammond, Louisiana.

The second initial license application was from Inspire Code Consulting, located in Slidell, Louisiana. The school was proposing to offer two online programs: Dual Medical Coding, a 20-week/488-hour program and Certified Professional Medical Auditing, a 12-week/168-hour program. Owner Karen Williams represented the school. Further discussion included information about the schools' need for coding in Allied Health, whether auditors need certification, qualifications for being a coder and to be certified, staff's knowledge of any issues under the school's previous license and success rate of former students.

On motion of Chris Broadwater, seconded by Sherrie Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the initial license application for Inspire Code Consulting, Slidell, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was operating license renewals. Over the previous two months, 22 schools submitted complete renewal applications.

On motion of Sherrie Despino, seconded by Chris Broadwater, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools:

1. AAA Crane & Rigging - License #2371
2. ABCDL Truck Driving Academy - License #2373
3. Academy of Acadiana – New Iberia – License #2086
4. CDL Mentors – Lake Charles - License #2299
5. Coastal College - Lafayette. - License #1002
6. Coastal College - Monroe - License #957
7. Coastal Truck Driving School of Lake Charles - License #2372
8. Delta College of Arts & Technology – Lafayette - License #2075
9. Elise Phlebotomy Training Center - License #2317
10. Goodwill Technical College - License #2210
11. Lenora School of Phlebotomy - License #911
12. Louisiana Culinary Institute - License #2045
13. Phlebotomy Career Training Academy - License #2350
14. River Parishes Institute - License #2351
15. Saint Christopher College - License #2269
16. Southwest Dental Assisting Academy - License #2318
17. Sovereign College - License #2316
18. St. Agatha Career Schools – License #2352
19. Tender Loving Care Allied Health Training – License #2370
20. Tulsa Welding School & Technology Center – License #2212
21. Unitech Training Academy – Houma – License #2087
22. Zollege Healthcare Career School – Baton Rouge – License #2191

Staff did bring to the Commission’s attention, for the record, that the Houma Unitech campus’s previous license was renewed, as it expired before Change of Ownership applications were submitted and noted that the Lafayette Unitech original license was not being renewed technically because the Change of Ownership application was submitted prior to expiration in its place. There were two schools who chose not to renew their license for this renewal period, and staff are working with both schools to obtain the student records.

- License # 1015 – At-Home Professions – Fort Collins, CO
- License # 2374 – Tech Hub Institute – Shreveport, LA

The next agenda item was other business. Discussion included a brief legislative update on items that would impact proprietary schools if passed, including the removal of the audit preparation requirement for initial applications, changes in the amount of work experience required for instructors, the addition of training on human trafficking in CDL training programs and possible changes in number of training hours required for a licensed massage therapist. Other business also included a discussion of a new method to deliver materials to Commission members prior to meetings.

The next meeting of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission is scheduled for July 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 1-153 of the Claiborne Building. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

Noah Brandon

Unitech Training Academy

India Star Brumfield

MedEra Technical Institute

Amanda LaGroue

LA Department of Justice

Karen Williams

Inspire Code Consulting