

Certification Advisory Council (CAC)

Friday, August 12, 2016

Summary Notes

Members Present: Daniel Wright (acting chair); Donna Jurick, Robert Rhodes, Dianna Miller.

Staff Present: Cathie Maeyaert, Paul Shuler, Garry Tomerlin

Others Present: Pam Quinn, Dallas County Committee College District (site team chair); Emmanuel Ike, Joshua Education Services (applicant)

The webcast of this meeting is available at the following link:

<http://www.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/Events/>

1. Welcome and introduction of CAC members

Cathie Maeyaert welcomed Certification Advisory Council (CAC) members, Daniel Wright, acting chair, Dianna Miller, Donna Jurick, and Robert Rhodes. Carolyn Wilson-Green and Jennifer Ramm were not in attendance. A quorum was met.

Ms. Maeyaert introduced staff members, Garry Tomerlin and Paul Shuler.

2. Consideration of Summary Notes from the July 30, 2015 meeting

Robert Rhodes, acting chair, asked for review and motion to approve the July 30, 2015 meeting summary notes. Motion to accept by Donna Jurick; second by Dianna Miller. Motion carried to accept notes as written.

3. Consideration of the application for Certificate of Authority from Joshua Educational Services, LLC

Dr. Wright asked Emmanuel Ike to give a brief overview of his vision for Joshua University. Mr. Ike provided background information and history. Mr. Ike currently operates Joshua Career Institute (JCI), Dallas, Texas, under the Texas Workforce Commission. The Certificate of Authority application by Joshua Education Services (JES) requests the authority to offer degrees as Joshua University.

Dr. Wright asked Pam Quinn, site team chair, to give a summary of the site evaluation visit. JES has applied for three online degrees in business programs (associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees). Dr. Wright provided background of site team members.

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Ms. Quinn stated the site team report was based on review of THECB Standards for Operation of Institutions, found in administrative rules; JES' application; institutional documents; and on-site interviews. The team also reviewed the current certificate programs offered by JCI. The report included observations and areas of significant concern which needed to be addressed.

The team found more areas of concern than standards which were met. The team found 23 of the 24 standards were not met. Ms. Quinn summarized the team's concerns and how JES has taken steps since the site visit to meet some of the concerns. The team does not believe JES is ready to be approved for degrees at this time.

Dr. Wright asked THECB staff to provide an overview of the process once the CAC makes its recommendation. Ms. Maeyaert explained the entire process: application; site team evaluation; site team report; applicant's response; CAC reviews site team's report and applicant's response; CAC makes recommendation; THECB Commissioner also may make a recommendation; recommendations, either to approve or deny an application, are provided to the Committee on Academic and Workforce Success; and recommendations are finally provided to the full Coordinating Board at its next quarterly meeting.

Mr. Ike provided a response to the site evaluation team report. Mr. Ike acknowledged the team had discussed six major areas of review with him. After the site visit, JES provided additional information that had not been available at the site visit, including posting sample curriculum for review. Mr. Ike stated JES did not realize this information would need to be reviewed. Mr. Ike also explained issues with student employment.

Dr. Wright asked THECB staff to explain limitations placed on JES' level of preparation. Ms. Maeyaert explained that before an applicant is approved, the applicant can't use certain protected terms, including "university" prior to obtaining approval to offer degrees. Applicants are also cautioned that they may not advertise or offer degrees or courses leading to degrees before obtaining THECB approval. Ms. Maeyaert confirmed that Mr. Ike has abided by those limitations. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Tomerlin explained the two primary roles of the agency: Protect the interests of students; and support and assist institutions to deliver education and serve students. Dr. Tomerlin explained that applicants must show they are ready to operate before they can actually operate.

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Dr. Wright asked Mr. Ike to verify the number of students served in the last three years. Mr. Ike confirmed 30 students had been served.

Dr. Wright facilitated questions from the CAC members. Dr. Miller enquired as to the current course offerings. Mr. Ike said certificates were offered by JCI, but would be transferred into degree programs for Joshua University. The applicant will offer associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in business disciplines. The website with the curriculum has not yet been published, but the curriculum is set.

Dr. Miller asked how many programs were in the original application. Mr. Ike stated he had originally applied for 30 programs, but narrowed down the application to seven programs of study including various degree levels. Dr. Tomerlin clarified that JES started with six discipline areas at the certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's and doctorate level. The discipline areas were business administration, healthcare management, information technology, paralegal studies, psychology & counseling, and education. Dr. Tomerlin gave the example of THECB staff being unaware of any institution offering a doctorate in paralegal studies and encouraging a narrower focus for the application. Dr. Wright asked for clarification and Mr. Ike explained there were minors that could be obtained with a business administration major at each level.

Dr. Jurick commented that the hands-on training piece would have been the focus when working with the Texas Workforce Commission for the certificate programs. As JES moves toward degrees, Dr. Jurick asked how JES would balance the online training between hands-on training and the theoretical background traditionally required for bachelor's and master's degrees. Mr. Ike explained higher level degrees will do more research. Mr. Ike explained the applicant's hands-on training in a degree program, such as developing a marketing plan. Mr. Ike emphasized a project orientation to the degree programs so students would have tangible proof of learning.

Dr. Jurick also asked about the type of certifications students would receive. Mr. Ike explained students would have the option of being certified by an industry group after completion of a course.

Dr. Wright asked Ms. Quinn for her assessment of the number of Standards that still needed to be reviewed after JES' response. Ms. Quinn did not provide a specific number of Standards, but confirmed the site team continued to believe there was a level of uncertainty as to JES' ability to start a university at the present time.

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Dr. Wright made a motion for a ten-minute recess until 11:00 a.m. Dr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed. Ms. Maeyaert reminded the CAC members there could be no discussion of the application under review during the recess. A short recess was taken.

After the recess, Dr. Wright confirmed there were no additional questions for the applicant, the site team, or THECB staff. Dr. Rhodes requested guidance regarding the options for a recommendation to the Coordinating Board. Ms. Maeyaert replied the recommendation would be based on the site visit report, the applicant's response, and any information received during the meeting. The CAC members could recommend either approval or denial of JES' application for a Certificate of Authority.

Dr. Rhodes made a motion to recommend denial of the application of Joshua Education Services for a Certificate of Authority. Dr. Miller seconded the motion. CAC members were polled. CAC members Rhodes, Jurick, Miller, and Wright voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Dr. Rhodes thanked Mr. Ike and Ms. Quinn for their time.

4. Update on upcoming meeting dates and expected activities during AY 2016-2017

Ms. Maeyaert provided an update on meeting dates. Some dates needed to move due to Coordinating Board meeting resource availability. The CAC is expected to meet October 27, 2016, January 24, 2017, April 25, 2017, and July 25, 2017. Ms. Maeyaert provided an estimate of upcoming applications. It was expected that an application, which is in process, would be brought to the October 2016 meeting. The January or April 2017 meetings may also have an application. Ms. Maeyaert noted that applications might increase if a national accreditor is not re-recognized by the US Department of Education. Schools now under a Certificate of Authorization might need to seek a Certificate of Authority.

Ms. Maeyaert asked for submission of travel and meeting preparation cost estimates for a report to the Legislative Budget Board on committee activities.

5. Adjournment

Dr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Rhodes seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.