



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

www.education.ne.gov
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117

PRIVATE POSECONDARY CAREER SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Nebraska State Office Building

6th Floor Conference Room A

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE 68509

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Karim Gharzai, Ph.D., Shonna Dorsey (arrived at 9:10), Gary Lucas, Mark Whener, Larry Marsh

ABSENT: Teresa Stitcher Fitz

NDE STAFF: Brad Dirksen, Yvette Martin

Brad Dirksen called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with announcement of the open meetings act, and followed with roll call and introductions.

Public comment period was announced. No public in attendance.

Gary Lucas motioned for approval of today's agenda and it was seconded by Mark Wehner with the remaining council members in agreement.

The minutes from the January 21, 2014 meeting were reviewed and Mark Wehner motioned to approve and seconded by Larry Marsh with the remaining council members in agreement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS by Brad Dirksen

- Brad did an overview of the Veterans Education position vacancy and explained how we are partnering with Adult Basic Education.
- A brief summary was given on the audit of Veterans Education conducted by the Office of Inspector General in October 2016.

Old Business:

- Brad gave an update on the revisions to Rule 41, 42, 43, and 44. The most significant change was having the rules align with the current Statutes. Two more changes to note was the requirement to post the school's authorization to operate, and allow clock hours to be used along with the credit hours. All rule changes became effective on November 8, 2016.
- Brief explanation was given of the statute revisions with the main one being 85-1604 regarding Distance education programs offered by out-of-state schools authorized in accordance with an interstate reciprocity agreement.

- Accreditation process revisions. Brad shared a copy of the newly developed “Guide to Accreditation” flowchart.

New Business:

- Financial update was given along with a copy of the PPCS Fund Analysis.
- Brad notified the council that our agency will be converting all microfilm to digital files. Bids were obtained and the Secretary of States office was selected to do the conversion.
- The council discussed the new OnBase document storage system that we are in the processing of implementing. Brad also discussed long term application process goals.
- Discussion was held on potential changes to the accreditation standards with a review of Rule 41, 009.01 and Statutes 85-1617 through 85-1620.

BREAK 10:34 – 10:50

- Meeting resumed with continued discussion on accreditation standards. Brad held a small discussion on student transcript collection, and how he would like to see a list of students submitted annually. Council members agreed with this and if it is implemented it should be based on previous calendar year.
- Discussed 85-1620 standards and if schools should continue with the two to five year wait before they can offer an associate degree
- Brad reviewed the accreditation handouts with the council and a discussion was held on revision of the forms and guidelines for accreditation. Brad will revise the self-study guide and tailor it towards rules and regulations, and make it a more streamlined process for the school.
- Council members reviewed and provided comment on the new sample Application for Renewal. PPCS will make a few revisions to the sample application.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Handouts: Agenda, Review of Private Postsecondary Career Schools, Advisory Council list, PPCS January 21, 2014 meeting minutes, Statutes 85-1617 thru 85-1620, PPCS Guide to Accreditation, Guide to Self-Study for Accreditation, Accreditation Materials Available to Visitation Team, Accreditation Team – School Visit Form, Accreditation Evaluation Instrument, PPCS Fund Analysis, Sample Application for Renewal.