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Susan A. Gendron
Commissioner

EXHIBIT: IV.E.
TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*
DATE: April 11, 2007
SUBJECT: Update and Consideration of the State Approval Status for the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development Educator Preparation Programs at Both the Initial and Advanced Levels

BACKGROUND: A joint State and National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) program approval/accreditation visit to the University of Maine was conducted November 4 - 9, 2005, for the purpose of reviewing the professional educator preparation programs offered by the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD).

- Following the on-site visit a State team report was prepared which included team findings resulting from the application of both State and NCATE standards, commendations, recommendations, and a recommendation that State program approval be granted to the University of Maine CEHD. The report was distributed to the State Board during its February 15, 2006 meeting with a note that action would be called for following notification of NCATE's accreditation decision.
- The NCATE Unit Accrediting Board met in April, 2006 and rendered its accreditation decision in which it was determined that the University of Maine CEHD met all NCATE standards except Standard 4 - Diversity. This accreditation decision overturned the NCATE Board of Examiners Report in which the University of Maine's CHED was found to have met all standards – albeit with a new and two continuing areas for improvement as related to Standard 4 – Diversity (**see D. 1 – Pgs. 4-8 – Document excerpt from the University of Maine 2006 NCATE BOE Report**).
- During the May 10, 2006, meeting the Board was asked to accept, for consideration, the State team report, the NCATE program accreditation team report, and the Unit Accrediting Board notice of continuing accreditation report. Consideration of these reports, along with a recommendation for State program approval, was to appear as an agenda item for the July 12, 2006 meeting of the Board (**see D. 2 – Pg. 10 - May 10, 2006 Board exhibit**).
- During the July 12, 2006 meeting the Board decided not to act on the proposed exhibit (**see D. 3 – Pg. 11 - July 12, 2006 Board exhibit**) and decided to table any further state program approval consideration and requested receipt of documentation concerning the University of Maine's CEHD appeal of the Unit Accrediting Board's decision. Such documentation was due for submission to NCATE in October.

- **{It should also be noted that during this same meeting the Board accepted the report of the University of Maine at Presque Isle program approval team and granted conditional approval status. UMPI program administration is required to submit an interim report in which the team's recommendations are fully addressed by December 31, 2008 (see D. 4- Pg. 12 – July 12, 2006 Board exhibit). The UMPI team report found that Standard 4 – Diversity was met and that holistically a good-faith effort was being made to address the diversity indicators.}**
- During the December 13, 2006 meeting the Board agreed to receive documentation from both the CEHD and NCATE regarding the College's accreditation status/issues **(see D. 5 – Pg. 13 - December 13, 2006 Board exhibit)**. These materials included the College's appeal documentation; it was noted that the appeal would not likely be acted upon until mid-April 2007. In the meantime, it was decided that the Board would discuss fully, in (a) subsequent workshop session(s), its obligations, if any, as relates to the Maine-NCATE State Partnership Agreement as well as the Board's explicit expectations as to how Maine's educator preparation programs are to meet Standard 4 – Diversity in the future.

Additional Background:

- During the May 14, 2003 meeting the Board voted to approve the University of Maine at Farmington's professional educator programs **(see D. 6 – Pgs. 14-15 – May 14, 2003 Board exhibit)**. In the NCATE Board of Examiners Report the University of Maine at Farmington's College of Education Health and Rehabilitation was found to have met all standards – albeit with two new and one continuing areas for improvement as related to Standard 4 – Diversity **(see D. 7 - Pgs. 16-22 - Document excerpt from the University of Maine at Farmington 2002 NCATE Report)**.
- During the November 13, 2002 meeting the Board voted unanimously to approve the University of Southern Maine's professional educator programs **(see D. 8 – Pgs. 23-24 - November 13, 2002 Board exhibit)**. In the Board of Examiners Report the University of Southern Maine's College of Education and Human Development was found to have met all standards – albeit with two new and one continuing areas for improvement as related to Standard 4 – Diversity **(see D. 9 – Pgs. 25-25.3 - Document excerpt from the University of Southern Maine 2002 NCATE Report)**.
- [Standard 4 – Diversity has been excerpted from Chapter 114 and is enclosed as D. 10 – Pgs. 26-27 - for the Board's information and reference.]

RECOMMENDATION: Given the Board's recent state program approval decisions, which have followed consideration of review team reports where new and continuing areas for improvement regarding compliance with Standard 4 – Diversity have been cited, it is recommended that the State Board of Education grant state approval to the University of Maine College of Education and Human Development educator preparation programs. The period of approval would be from fall 2005 through fall 2012.

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
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