



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: IV.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

DATE: June 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Review Team Recommendation Regarding the Husson College Application for Additional Degree-Granting Authorization to Award the Juris Doctor (J.D.) Degree

BACKGROUND: 20-A MRSA, Chapter 409 provides that a postsecondary educational institution desiring to confer additional degrees must obtain authorization from the Maine State Board of Education. Husson College has previously been authorized to award specific degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, Master's, and Doctoral levels.

Officials of Husson College submitted an application seeking authority to confer an additional degree, the Juris Doctor (J.D.). A program approval visit was conducted on the campus of Bowdoin College, October 25, 2006. This meeting resulted in the generation of a number of questions that the team asked Husson College officials to address. The President of Husson College submitted responses to the team's questions on January 22, 2007. Following distribution of the College's responses, a phone conference was scheduled with team members on February 23, 2007. The purpose of the phone meeting was to ascertain how well team members felt the responses adequately addressed prior concerns and to determine whether another meeting with the applicant was necessary. It was decided that Husson College had met all degree-granting standards as set forth in Chapter 170, albeit with some ongoing concerns. The team chair, Dr. Barry Mills, President of Bowdoin College, agreed to summarize the team's findings and to include the few remaining concerns. To arrive at a consensus on the wording of the summary, many emails were exchanged among and between team members over the next several weeks. On April 24, 2007, through the vehicle of a summary letter, Dr. Mills conveyed ". . . the unanimous view of the members of the committee that Husson College's application for the creation of a law school meets the criteria set forth in Chapter 170."

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education accept the unanimous view of the Husson College Review Team and approve additional degree-granting authority for Husson College to award the degree of Juris Doctor (J.D.).

*Prepared by Harry Osgood
Higher Education Specialist