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Minutes
Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission
May 11, 2021

The Louisiana Board of Regents' Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission met virtually on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 10:00am. Chair Fontenot called the meeting to order at 10:05am. The roll was then called, and it was determined that we had a quorum.

Commission Member Present

Melanie Amrhein
Sherrie Despino
James Dorris
James Fontenot, Chair
Jada Lewis
Randy Plaisance

Commission Members Absent

Chris Broadwater
Carmen Million
Mary Lou Potter

Staff Members Present

Nancy Beall
Courtney Britton
Chandra Cheatham
Mighan Johnson
Jennifer Stevens

Guests Present

(See Appendix A)

The next item of business was the approval of the minutes from the March 9, 2021 Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.

On motion of Ms. Despino, seconded by Ms. Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously adopted the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission meeting.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was the initial license applications from OceanPointe Dental Academy of Hammond, Louisiana. The school was represented by the owner, Dr. Neil Oza. Ms. Johnson reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution was proposing to offer one (1) program: Dental Assisting, 172 clock hours and 14 weeks. The program met all legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion included Ms. Amrhein complemented Dr. Oza on a complete and thorough application. There were further discussions on background and the need for opening of schools, structure of training and preparation, partnerships, and outreach and marketing to potential students.

On motion of Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the operating license for OceanPoint Dental Academy, Hammond, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Safe Road Truck Driving School, LLC, located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The school was represented by the owners, Neidra Hinton and Jadian McPherson. Ms. Johnson reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution was proposing to offer two (2) programs: (1) CDL Class A, 160 clock hours and 4 weeks and (2) CDL Class B, 80 clock hours and 1 week. Both programs met all legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion included background of owners' motivation and inspiration to open the school, need for truck drivers, and connecting with companies that have a shortage of drivers.

On motion of Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the operating license for Safe Road Truck Driving School, LLC, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Skillz Academy, LLC, located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The school was represented by the owner, Mark Rigdon, and CEO, Courtney Williams. Ms. Britton reviewed the materials for the Commission

members, informing them that the institution was proposing to offer one (1) program: Software Sales Training Program, 293 clock hours and 8 weeks. The program met all legal and administrative requirements to be approved for initial license.

Following further discussion included demand for particular field, background of owner and CEO, potential students, and length of course.

On motion of Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Amrhein, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents approve the operating license for Skillz Academy, LLC, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was the initial license application from Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The school was represented by the owner, Jessica Shropshire. Ms. Johnson reviewed the materials for the Commission members, informing them that the institution was proposing to offer one (1) program: Phlebotomy Tech, 144 clock hours and 12 weeks. The program met all legal and administrative requirements to be approved for an initial license.

Following further discussion included background of owners' motivation to open the school and plans for the school including class size, instructors, purchasing equipment, student outreach and sustainability, student grants, competition in the area, and the business plan. Mr. Fontenot shared concern there was not enough defined research for the business plan.

On motion of Mr. Fontenot, seconded by Ms. Despino, the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission voted to defer the application for an operating license for Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, until the July 13, 2021, Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission Meeting, pending an updated business plan.

A roll of the vote was as follows: Amrhein – yes, Despino – yes, Dorris – no, Fontenot – yes, Lewis – yes, Plaisance – yes.

The next agenda item considered by the Commission was operating license renewals. There were twenty-three (23) schools who submitted renewal applications. Ms. Britton noted one school (Pilut Healthcare Training Institute, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, #2288), did not submit a renewal application.

On motion of Ms. Amrhein, seconded by Ms. Despino, the Proprietary Schools

Advisory Commission unanimously voted that the Board of Regents renew the licenses of the following proprietary schools.

Academy of Acadiana, Inc., New Iberia (3/22/2006)
At-Home Professions (4/22/1999)
Baton Rouge Dental Assistant Academy (3/26/2014)
Blue Cliff College – Houma (3/24/2005)
Blue Cliff College – Metairie (3/23/2000)
Blue Cliff College – Metairie, Satellite Location (3/23/2011)
CDL Mentors, LLC – Lake Charles (3/27/2019)
Charity Health Training Institute, LLC (4/22/2020)
Coastal College - Lafayette (4/23/1998)
Coastal College - Monroe (3/28/1996)
Delta College of Arts & Technology – Lafayette Branch (3/24/2005)
Elise Phlebotomy Training Center (4/22/2020)
Goodwill Technical College (3/25/2015)
Lenora School of Phlebotomy (4/28/1994)
Louisiana Culinary Institute, LLC (3/27/2003)
Professional Laser Training (1/14/2019)
Saint Christopher College (3/14/2017)
Southwest Dental Academy (4/22/2020)
Tulsa Welding School and Technology Center (3/15/2015)
Unitech Training Academy - Lafayette (4/24/1997)
Unitech Training Academy – Houma (3/22/2006)
Universal Technical Institute of Texas, Inc. (4/20/1984)
Universal Technical Institute – Florida Branch (4/23/1998)

The next agenda item was an update on program approvals. Chair Fontenot reminded the Commission that staff approved these updates administratively and program approvals were being shared for informational purposes only. No questions were brought forward regarding program approvals.

Other Business

Mr. Fontenot asked for an update regarding rule changes that were reviewed and voted on at the March meeting. Ms. Britton stated that the rule changes were presented to the Board, voted on, and approved. In addition, she stated that the rule changes were submitted to the Louisiana Office of State Register for printing in the upcoming edition and the public comments period will begin upon publication. Ms. Britton then stated that she is hopeful that at the July commission meeting, she will have an update that the Rules have met final approval of the Board, and that they will go on as official rule changes in the Administrative Code. Next, Ms. Britton discussed that she is working with Academic Affairs on a selection of software as a service to provide an online portal for digital process

improvements.

The next meeting of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., with location to be determined at a closer time. With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

APPENDIX A
GUESTS

Neidra Hinton	Safe Road Truck Driving School, LLC
Amanda LaGroue	LA Department of Justice
Jadian McPherson	Safe Road Truck Driving School, LLC
Neil Oza	OceanPointe Dental Academy of Hammond
Mark Rigdon	Skillz Academy, LLC
Jessica Shropshire	Baton Rouge School of Phlebotomy
Bruce Vermeulen	OceanPointe Dental Academy of Hammond
Courtney Williams	Skillz Academy, LLC