

Advisory Council for Licensed Private Career Schools

at

State Education Department
Education Building, Room EB 5A&5B
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York

June 17, 2015

Minutes

Council Members and Ex-officios Present:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| • Michael Hatten | - Chairman | New York Automotive & Diesel Institute |
| • Rabbi Yerachmiel Barash | - Member | Cope Institute |
| • Vincent Ferrara | - Member | Ferrara's Beauty School |
| • James M. Devaney Ph.D. | - Member | American Higher Education Development Corporation |
| • Anthony Civitano | - Member | NYS Beauty School Association |
| • Sheila Steinhof | - Member | Steinhof Educational Services |
| • Lauren Weymouth | - Member | Ridley-Lowell Schools |
| • Jay Fund | - Member | Hunter Business School |
| • Carolyn Miller | - Member | Rochester Institute of Dog Grooming |
| • Carole Yates | - Ex-officio | Director, BPSS |
| • Aiesha Battle, Esq. | - Ex-officio | Division Director, New York State Department of State
Division of Consumer Protection |

State Education Department:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • Kevin Smith | - Deputy Commissioner, ACCES |
| • Ruth Singer | - Supervisor, Education Programs of BPSS |
| • Lisa Stiles-Roy | - Licensing Supervisor, BPSS |
| • Dr. Thomas Reimer | - Supervisor, Curriculum Review, BPSS |

Introduction & Meeting Protocol:

Council members and ex-officio members introduced themselves for the record. Hatten acknowledged Carolyn Miller attending her first Advisory Council meeting.

The Chairman asked the Council and audience participants to turn down cell phones and talk clearly for recording purposes. He explained meeting format, whereby Council members and ex-officio members talk among themselves during the regular session and audience members will be able to comment and ask questions at the end of the meeting. Hatten thanked the New School for Radio and Television for their continued commitment to professionally record Advisory Council meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the December 11, 2014 minutes, moved by Devaney and seconded by Steinhof, Civitano abstained, motion approved. Motion to approve the March 11, 2015 minutes, moved by Ferrara and seconded by Fund, Civitano abstains, motion approved.

BPSS General Update and Status Report:

Presented by Carole Yates, Director, Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision.

- Yates:
- Computer build is complete. The system is up and running.
 - Unlicensed school update report. Twenty-five current pending candidate schools.
 - Reported on new school construction.
 - Discussed schools on financial probation.
 - Reported on the success of The Directors Training Course.
 - Problems with some unlicensed nail salon businesses.
 - Ongoing review of “ESL” Regulations.
- Fund:
- ESL schools are having problems with the negative effect refunds are having on gross tuition amounts.
- Singer:
- Commented on the “refund” issue facing ESL schools.
- Civitano:
- Asked if there is a broader problem with unlicensed schools? Yates – answer, not in general, some problem with billing and coding. Asked about the process of “financial probation”. The appearance enhancement bill will negatively impact apprenticeships, as well as the wage and hour lawsuit.
- Georgia:
- Diana Georgia informed the Council that emergency regulations have just been posted. The bill is moving and she anticipates that it will pass.
- Reimer:
- Check Cutting Edge News for latest Emergency Regulation updates.
- Singer:
- The financial system is up and running, only minor issues exist. There are around four hundred licensed non-degree schools, servicing approximately one hundred seventy-five thousand students annually.

Deputy Commissioner Kevin Smith:

Smith: Reminded the Council as to their role as advisers to the Commissioner and the State Education Department. Strong relationship between the Council and BPSS. New Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, will begin on July 6, 2015. ACCES is carefully tracking the nail salon issue. Discussed a bill that will alter the role of the licensed school agent and the process of advertising through search engines.

School Presentations: Ridley-Lowell and Rochester Institute of Dog Grooming:

Weymouth: Presented on Ridley-Lowell and the important things happening at the institution. The school is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the nation.

Miller: She talked about her school and the over thirty years of educational experience she brings to the Council.

Hatten: Both presentations were informative and enthusiastically delivered. The Chair acknowledged their contributions to the non-degree sector and to this Council.

Chairman's Report:

Hatten:

- New York Times articles, past and present, regarding the non-degree sector.
- Cutting edge news update.
- Advisory Council contact list.

ATB and Eligible Career Pathway Program:

Hatten: Defined the requirements for the restoration of ATB, outlined in a "Dear Colleagues Letter" dated May 22, 2015. The State Education Department is currently discussing the guidance provided by the Department. The State Education Department has not completed its analysis and the effect that implementation will have on institutional compliance.

TASC Testing/CTB McGraw Hill, Maine McCormic, Education Specialist:

McCormick: Offered a comprehensive outline of the TASC high school equivalency prep program. Interested schools can contact Maxine directly or forward questions and comments to the Chair.

Committee Appoints:

- Student Access – Sheila Steinhof
- State Regulatory – Anthony Civitano
- Federal Regulatory – Dr. James Devaney
- Institutional Success – Lauren Weymouth
- Fiscal – Jay Fund

Council Appoints:

- The three year term for all Council members expires on December 31, 2015. The reappointment process is under review and will be formulated in the coming months. Stand by.

Comments and Questions from the Audience:

Terry Zaleski, Executive Director of the Coalition of New York Career Schools, shared with the Council that June 6, 2015 marked the seventieth year that the coalition has been serving non-degree schools in our state. The oldest organization of its type in the country. Smith: All ACCES-VR counselors have been directed to look at the students individual employment prospects when making decisions on approving a student. The cost of the program is not a factor. Smith: Arbitration clause under consideration. Reimer: Field trips must be outside the approved curriculum. Ask about financial viability and the probation process. October 21 to October 23, 2015 Coalition Conference.

Ed Schwartz, ATB equivalency program must be approved by BPSS.

Frank Talty, discussed the possibility of using learning resources for adult educational services leading to an equivalency diploma.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be scheduled for late September or early October 2015.

Meeting adjourned.