

New Jersey Presidents' Council
Academic Issues Committee
October 4, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Present by phone:

Nurdan Aydin – NJCU
MaryAnn Baenninger – Drew University
Basil Baltzis – NJIT
Jacki Belin - Raritan Valley Community College
Jim Burkley – Rutgers University
Chris Capuano – Farleigh Dickinson University
Rafael Castilla – Eastwick College
Willard Gingerich – Montclair State University
Roberta Harvey – Rowan University
Sue Henderson, Chair AIC, - NJCU
Bob Kleinschmidt - Mercer County Community College
Mark McCormick – Middlesex County College
Jennifer Palmgren - TCNJ
David Stout – Brookdale Community College
Jeff Toney – Kean University
Marianne Vakalis - Berkeley College
Lori Vermeulen – Stockton

Also Present by phone:

Allison Samay – NJPC
Eric Taylor – Office of the Secretary of Higher Education
Guillermo “Will” de Veyga – NJCU
Rose Mary Reilly – NJCU

II. Approval of Minutes of the September 6, 2019 Meeting

Dr. Castilla moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2019 meeting, seconded by Dr. Stout. Minutes were approved.

III. Report from the Chair

Dr. Henderson welcomed everyone and mentioned there was a NJPC Executive meeting on September 23, 2019. The next NJPC meeting is scheduled for October 21, where the NJPC will receive an update regarding the Licensure. Mr. Taylor reported that he has a question into the Attorney General’s Office to inquire if the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education needs statutory authorization to charge fees for Licensure, he is waiting for a response. President Henderson looks forward to having further discussion at the NJPC meeting about Licensure, and understanding what other States are doing.

IV. New Programs

A. Montclair University

1. Master of Science in Data Science, CIP Code 30.3001

First Reader: Basil Baltzis, NJIT

Second Reader: Jim Burkley, Rutgers University

Dr. Baltzis summarized the submitted proposal stating the program is a Master of Science in Data Science. The Consultant conducted a site visit on May 16, 2018, the Institution received five responses from other Institutions of no conflict, no accreditation is required. The Institution plans to begin with 25 students, growing to 48 in five years, appropriate faculty have been hired. The Consultant was well qualified and addressed all the requirements, providing a detailed report that the institution responded appropriately. Mr. Burkley concurred. Dr. Baltzis motioned to move the proposal forward to the Presidents' Council, Mr. Burkley seconded. The motion was carried. Dr. Gingerich recused.

V. Other Action Items

1. Eastwick College

Intends to offer its AAS in Nursing (LPN-to-RN Bridge Program) at its Hackensack, NJ branch campus

First Reader: Chris Capuano, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Second Reader: Roberta Harvey, Rowan University

Dr. Capuano summarized the submitted proposal stating the program is for Eastwick's intent to offer its AAS in Nursing (LPN-to-RN Bridge Program at its Hackensack NJ campus EC Hackensack). The appropriate documentation was included, there were no comments or objections from other Institutions, EC Hackensack has adequate resources and faculty. Dr. Harvey concurred. Dr. Capuano motioned to move the proposal forward to the Presidents' Council, Dr. Harvey seconded. The motion was carried. Dr. Castilla recused.

2. Geneva College petition for initial licensure

https://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/highedddocs/Geneva_Petition_2019.pdf

password: Emerald!2019

First Reader: Lori Vermeulen, Stockton University

Second Reader: Jianping Wang, Mercer County Community College

*Dr. Kleinschmidt reported in the absence of Dr. Wang.

Dr. Vermeulen summarized the submitted petition for initial licensure to offer the Associate in Business Administration, the Associate of Science in Engineering and the Associate of Arts in General Studies, as well as a 32

credit-hour Pre-Nursing program. Supporting data is missing as related to the need and market to offer the programs. Dr. Kleinschmidt agreed, the programs are very duplicative and the statement of providing an affordable education, with a proposed tuition rate of \$399 a credit is less expensive than private institutions but duplication of the efforts of the local Community Colleges, \$399 a credit is not affordable in the light of Community Colleges. Dr. Vermeulen stated the petition meets the requirements established for licensure as stated in the AIC Manual, Dr. Kleinschmidt concurred. The Committee agreed to move the initial licensure forward to the Presidents' Council and would like to inform the NJPC that the AIC is currently limited to specific parameters on licensure agreements. Our review of these petitions is strictly on the basis of conforming to the licensure standard. The areas of duplication or program quality are not an aspect, this is a very narrowly defined review. The AIC remains concerned about the current process in the evaluation of licensures and look forward to hearing from the special committee appointed by the NJPC, on recommendations in making the expectations of the petitions stricter moving forward.

3. NJ Center for Teaching and Learning petition for initial licensure

https://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/highedddocs/NJCTL_petition_2019.pdf

password: 2019%Blue

First Reader: Marsha Pollard, Berkeley College

Second Reader: Willard Gingerich, Montclair State University

*Dr. Vakalis reported in the absence of Dr. Pollard

Dr. Vakalis summarized the submitted petition for NJCTL, a private, not-for-profit post-secondary institution with a main office in Mahwah, NJ for initial licensure to offer the Master of Science in Teaching and Learning Physics, the Master of Science in Teaching and Learning Chemistry, and the Master of Science in Teaching and Learning Mathematics. The institution proposes to offer these programs using an online format. The consultant team of two were well credentialed and conducted a site visit in June; The consultants provided a report which recommends the petition while noting areas of concern and Dr. Vakalis stated that the Institution's responses to the report were weak, not providing any specifics. Dr. Gingerich agreed with Dr. Vakalis and stated the Institution has been licensed for some years to offer secondary certifications in Physics, Chemistry, Middle School Math, and K-12 Math. A similar petition for licensure to offer graduate degrees was submitted by the Institution in December of 2015 that was not recommended for approval by the NJPC. He noted that both consultants are principals in the Relay Graduate School project.

Two areas of concern were noted by Dr. Gingerich: The licensure requirements regarding graduate programs (9A:1-2.5) stipulate:

a) Graduate education presupposes advanced study beyond the undergraduate curriculum in terms of rigor, expectations of scholarship, curricular depth, and exercise of independent thought. The work in such programs shall be beyond the baccalaureate level in intellectual demand, and a substantial part of it shall be in courses designed explicitly for graduate students.

(e) The objectives of every graduate or graduate professional program shall be clearly defined and stated. The work in such programs shall be beyond the baccalaureate level in intellectual demand, and a substantial part of it shall be in courses designed explicitly for graduate students, although exceptionally well-qualified undergraduates occasionally may be admitted. The consultants stated that the institution meets the requirement of these rules but did not comment on or substantiate this finding. However, their preceding evaluation of general program standards (9A:1-2-1) observes that the content pedagogy is grounded “in a prescribed K-12 curriculum” such that “educators are learning and practicing with the exact same materials that they will be teaching their K-12 students.” The consultants do not explain why this constitutes “advanced study beyond the undergraduate curriculum” nor do they address the fact that this does not represent work “in courses designed explicitly for graduate students.”

The licensure requirements regarding faculty (9A:1-1.8) stipulate:

(d) Full-time and part-time faculty teaching in graduate programs shall have earned the doctorate or an equivalent qualification in the field in which they are appointed. They shall engage in an active pattern of professional productivity including, but not limited to, instruction, advisement, research, peer-reviewed publication, authorship, editorial services, creative work, artistic production, patents, applied research, service to professional associations and organizations, program design, and/or the scholarship of instruction.

(e) Adjunct faculty shall possess the same qualifications as full-time and part-time faculty. Adjunct faculty shall be academically qualified to teach all courses to which they are assigned. When appropriate in the judgment of the institution, compensating preparation or experience may be taken into account in judging whether an adjunct instructor is academically qualified to teach a particular course.

The inadequate academic credentials of the faculty are a serious concern. Although the consultants stated that the criteria for the licensure requirements were met, they observed that fewer than 30% of the faculty possess the terminal degree and noted faculty credentials as an “area of concern” with a recommendation that the faculty recruitment and staffing model be reconsidered. With respect to the appropriateness of

“compensating preparation or experience” being taken into account, the consultants cited students’ positive perceptions of the instructors’ knowledge of course content. This is insufficient evidence that the faculty qualifications are appropriate to the level of the educational program. The consultants also noted deficiency in the faculty’s mastery of the scholarship of pedagogy as an “area of productive push” and encouraged the Center’s faculty “to engage in more rigorous study of the design, implementation, and impact of its approach.” This further suggests that the faculty lack the appropriate credentials and expertise.

The copyrighted course work and the individuals delivering the course work meet the requirements for licensure for secondary certification and NJCTL’s programs support STEM education in New Jersey schools via that certification route. However, neither the academic program nor the faculty meet the criteria for delivery of master's degrees in these areas according to the licensure requirements of the State of NJ. This petition fails to demonstrate that they are prepared to offer graduate-level education.

Dr. Gingerich moved that the concerns of this petition be shared with the NJPC citing the petitions failure to adequately address the statutory requirements for a graduate education as provided in the NJ Administrative Code Title 9A, Dr. Vakalis seconded, the motion was carried.

4. **Rowan College at Burlington County**

Conversion of an Option to Full Program Status –
Associate of Science in Computer Information
Systems from an Option to Liberal Arts and
Sciences to full program status as an Associate of
Science Degree in Computer Information Systems
(AS.INF), CIP Code 11.0103

First Reader: Michael McDonough, Raritan Valley Community College

Second Reader: Anthony Munroe, Essex County College

*Dr. Belin reported in the absence of Dr. McDonough.

*Dr. Munroe was unable to participate.

Dr. Belin summarized the submitted conversion of an option to full program status of an Associate of Science in Computer Information Systems from an option to Liberal Arts and Sciences to full program status as an Associate of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems, the program is not changing, they are recognizing that it should be a whole program in the Associate of Science degree. The first request is a waiver of a comprehensive review that would include using an outside consultant. The proposal written covers all sections. The second request is for program approval. They have fulfilled the requirements to waive the use of a consultant (Appendix H). The Board has approved the change, they outlined the learning outcomes and included an assessment plan, and it fits within the 60 credit requirement. It is

aligned with their mission and supports their strategic plan. It is similar to a change in nomenclature. Dr. Belin motioned to move to approve both, they don't need the consultant to review the program since it already exists, and to move the program forward as an Associate of Science Degree to the Presidents' Council, Dr. Gingerich seconded. The motion was carried. Dr. Harvey recused.

VI. For Your Information

A. Atlantic Cape Community College

1. Terminated Programs - Five

- Paralegal Studies, A.A.S.
- Baking and Pastry Specialization (Certificate of Achievement)
- Catering Specialization (Certificate of Achievement)
- Food Service Management Specialization (Certificate of Achievement)
- Hot Foods Specialization (Certificate of Achievement)

B. Ocean County Community College

1. New program option

- New Supply Chain Management Option in the Associate in Science Degree in Business Administration, CIP Code 52.0201

VII. Old Business

A. Fairleigh Dickinson University Resubmitted from September 6, 2019

1. Ed.D in Higher Education, CIP Code 13.0406

First Reader: Roberta Harvey, Rowan University

Second Reader: Nurdan Aydin, New Jersey City University

Dr. Harvey summarized the revised proposal for the Ed.D, appropriately responding to the four areas requested, the section on the comparative analysis was very helpful. They strengthened the market demand analysis as well as the learning outcomes plan. Dr. Aydin concurred. Dr. Harvey motioned to move the proposal forward to the Presidents' Council, Dr. Aydin seconded. The motion was carried. Dr. Capuano recused.

B. Talmudical Academy of New Jersey Resubmitted from May 17, 2019

1. Associate of Talmudic Studies degree, CIP Code 39.0606

First Reader: Bob Kleinschmidt, Mercer County Community College

Second Reader: Mark McCormick, Middlesex County College

Dr. Kleinschmidt summarized the proposal stating the Talmudical Academy of New Jersey (TANJ) has re-submitted the proposal for a new Associate degree program in Talmudic Studies but that they did not answer some, and only partially answered other concerns of the AIC. It seems that they may be operating under the assumption that because they offer a bachelor's degree, and

the associate degree is only a truncated version, this proposal is a formality. The AIC manual does not specifically address this type of situation, and this proposal is being submitted as a new degree. Given that they are not duplicating the efforts of other institutions, and the program will not require additional support, it does seem reasonable to allow TANJ some latitude, but it is concerning that they are unwilling to respond to reasonable inquiry.

Action: The Committee agreed at the May 17, 2019 meeting, that the proposal be returned to the institution for the institution to address the following:

1. Clearly describe the local needs of this program over the first five years- not answered

They seem to indicate the need is only for their current students. The rationale provided is for students to receive a credential after the first two years of study, and to provide motivation. The only source of information cited is “experience and recent trends.” In the initial proposal, they made mention of students leaving before completing the bachelor’s degree and attending a non-accredited school, which would leave them with no credential. There does not seem to be, however, any need for this program from the community. If there is, none has been presented and they have also not clarified what recent trends they have observed.

2. Please provide budgetary information- partially answered

The only statement they provided regarding budget is the disclaimer that there will not be any additional costs for this program. It would seem that they do not intend to do anything differently at all, except to award a degree after two years in addition to after four. It is reasonable to assume their current infrastructure could support this new program, particularly if they do not intend to accept additional students. However, we are making an assumption regarding their intent and enrollment projections because they have not stated them explicitly.

3. Please describe and list qualifications for faculty- not answered

Their response does not differ significantly from the original proposal. Except for a statement that all faculty are graduates of Talmud institutions with 8 years+ of graduate work, they did not provide any qualifications or identify any faculty. They reiterated the statement that the faculty are the same who are teaching in the bachelor’s program and therefore qualified. This could be accurate, but the lack of clear response is a concern.

4. Clarify the qualifications for the consultant, and his suitability to make this recommendation- partially answered

a. Does a conflict of interest exist between the institution and potential accreditation with the consultant’s organization?- answered

They qualified that their consultant works for another accrediting agency than the one they are affiliated with. Although likely not a conflict of interest, it is a reasonable to ask an institution to disclose the potential conflict.

b. In what discipline does the consultant hold a terminal degree?- partially answered

They provided a partial response by saying the consultant holds a PhD from NYU in the social sciences, which of course is a grouping, not a specific discipline. NYU currently lists anthropology, economics, linguistics, politics, and sociology as social science PhD programs. Ironically, the institution also has a degree in Hebrew and Judaic Studies, but that program is in the Humanities department. TANJ clarified that Dr. Cohen is an ordained rabbi and a Talmudic scholar, but provide no clarity to the administrative experience listed in his CV—stating only that he served as a dean for many years at Touro College. Although this combination of education, administrative experience, and qualifications may be appropriate, it seems unusual that the institution has been less than forthcoming with this information.

c. Clarify how the consultant’s experience is appropriate for this review.- not answered

The institution essentially claims that Dr. Cohen is an experienced consultant for programs in the Talmudic study field, and therefore qualified. Given that we are still unsure of his academic qualifications and his experience in higher education, this statement might be more convincing if they had provided some evidence or explanation about the scope of his work in accreditation.

Due to the lack of clarity of the responses, Dr. Kleinschmidt recommend again returning the proposal requesting TANJ to provide clear responses to the questions posed by the AIC, Dr. McCormick seconded, the motion was carried to return the re-submitted proposal to the Institution, Dr. Henderson will speak with the Institution to provide direction.

VIII. New Business