



North Carolina Board of
Postsecondary Education Credentials

MINUTES

Board of Postsecondary Education Credentials

December 5, 2017

10:00 a.m.

In attendance:

Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest
Lindsey Wakely, Superintendent's designee
Christine Ryan, Department of Labor
Steven Walker, Lt. Governor's Office
Maureen Little, Community College System
designee

Elizabeth McDuffie, CFNC
Scott Corl, Executive Director of Proprietary
Schools
Dr. Hope Williams, NCICU
Jennifer Haygood, Community College System
Danielle Albert, Lt. Governor's Office

Call to Order

Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

Discuss and Approve Overview of RFP

Lt. Governor Forest indicated that Steven Walker, General Counsel and Policy Director to the Lt. Governor, will be presenting on the Request for Proposal, or RFP.

Mr. Walker indicated that the Board needed to seek out a vendor through an RFP to handle the administrative work of the Board including data collection, reporting, and presenting findings.

Mr. Walker also spoke to the two required reports the committee must give to the legislature. The first is due in March 2018 and the second is due in March 2019. The March 2018 report should focus on goals the Board hopes to achieve before it is dissolved. The March 2019 should reflect progress towards the goals set by the Board and recommendations to the legislature regarding postsecondary education credentials.

Ms. Little gave several suggestions for the 2018 report. She said the committee should reference the duties contained in the legislation and incorporate them into the Board's overview. Additionally, she

suggested that the scheduled 2018 meetings should be listed in the RFP so that vendors are aware of the dates.

Dr. Williams believes the description should detail what the credentials mean rather than spelling out what an entire statewide system looks like.

Mr. Walker said that if there is no objection, the Board will place the suggestions in the RFP. Mr. Walker also asked who would write and evaluate the RFP.

Lt. Governor Forest opened the RFP drafting and reviewing to all Board members, asking who would like to be involved in this process.

Ms. Ryan and Mr. Corl volunteered to assist. Dr. Williams suggested that she may have someone be involved with the RFP.

Lt. Governor Forest said that, with the help of the individuals who volunteered, he hopes the Board can get the RFP out in the coming weeks.

Mr. Walker believes that the Board can close on the bids in early January and begin work in February.

Jennifer Haygood arrives to sit in briefly on the meeting.

Lt. Governor Forest asked if the RFP overview needs to be voted upon. Mr. Walker indicated that the RFP does need to be voted upon, as well as the money committed to the project. Mr. Walker suggested that this all be approved in one vote and that the Board set a maximum amount that will be paid to the vendor since the allocation in the budget is \$350,000.

Lt. Governor Forest asked if Ms. Haygood had any recommendations.

Ms. Haygood suggested that the Board not make any hard decisions on that yet. The RFP would be for the time we award it through June 2019. Haygood said that without knowing what people might charge for these services, it is hard to say exactly what the Board should do. We should probably leave about \$100,000 of the appropriation for other expenses.

Lt. Governor Forest urged the board to place a maximum of \$250,000 on the RFP and approve the language and other recommendations.

Ms. Haygood suggested the Board make a motion to set the maximum on the RFP at \$250,000 and to approve the suggested RFP language and that if P&C makes any recommendations we can have the ability to adjust the budget. Let's take P&C's comments into account.

Dr. Williams made the motion as suggested by Ms. Haygood and Ms. Ryan seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Lumina Study and Discussion

Mr. Walker presented the NC portion of the Lumina study and provided a document to the Board of the states that NC competes with along with various other nation trends.

Ms. Haygood added that the study needed some context for those not familiar with certificate because the bureau does not have a category to capture this data. The credentials are industry credentials; they are not being conferred by colleges, rather they are being conferred by third parties. This is a national problem, not just NC.

Lt. Governor Forest invited Matt Meyer of the Community College Systems Office to present on these trends.

Mr. Meyer added that there is a lot going on nationally. This is tied into Lumina. Mr. Meyer urged a MOU with commerce to obtain our data to ease challenges with data collection. Mr. Meyer also noted the disconnect between what industry wants and what the state is providing -- industry needs employability skills and experience. Currently, credentials are pretty far down the list and that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Williams informed the Board that more students are asking for these certifications and she noted the challenges in recording these requests. Data collection is a major difficulty.

Lt. Governor Forest asked Mr. Meyer if there was an organization responsible for handling data on credentialing.

Mr. Meyer responded saying Credential Engine is involved with data collection. Their focus is jumping the gap between all the certifications and where to get them. Credential Engine is also working on a common data dictionary.

Mr. Corl noted that in preparing for the meeting, he came across a study backed by Lumina and a national database of credentials trying to create it. He suggested the Board should review.

Final Thoughts

Ms. Wakely informed the Board that Superintendent Johnson is in Forsyth County today.

Dr. Williams discussed that most hospitals require completion of a RN and BSN Program. Dr. Williams and NCICU are working on an agreement to enhance that pipeline of students to hospitals. Additionally, Dr. Williams is seeing a lot of growth in cyber-security programs.

Ms. Haygood commented that the system is going through a strategic planning process to improve the education pipeline, enhancing credentialing, and build partnerships. Additionally, the system's Articulation Agreement was strengthened in 2014, enabling community college credits to transfer with ease towards four-year degrees. President Haygood wants to ensure that schools are aware of these articulation agreements.



North Carolina Board of
Postsecondary Education Credentials

Lt. Governor Forest encouraged Board members to share best practices and information so that everyone is informed about the offerings and programs available to NC students

Ms. McDuffie informed the Board that CFNC is undergoing a review of its website to better serve students. Additionally, applications for the Teaching Fellows Program opened yesterday. It is serving STEM fields and these computer science students could be a key piece.

Ms. Ryan brought greetings from the Department of Labor and urged the Board to work towards building a more educated workforce.

Adjournment

Lt. Governor Forest made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Haygood and unanimously approved.