

**Education Standards and Practices Board  
Program Approval Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

March 26, 2020

The Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB) Program Approval Advisory Committee (PAAC) conference call meeting was called to order at 8:00am by PAAC Chair Brenda Tufte. PAAC members present by phone were Brenda Tufte, Stacy Duffield, Cheryl Nilsen, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Ben Johnson, Josh Standing Elk, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, and Jessica Rush.

PAAC members absent were Bob Toso and Penny Veit-Hetletved.

Also present by phone were ESPB Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin and Amy Bigelow from ESPB, and Candie Weyrauch, Robert Rainbow, and Dr. Kerry Hartman from Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College.

Introductions were held. No additions or changes to the agenda. Cheryl Nilsen made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Motion seconded by Andi Dulski-Bucholz. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Approval of March 12, 2020 Minutes** – Andi Dulski-Bucholz made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2020, meeting. Motion seconded by Ben Johnson. All voted in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**Certification Central Request for Program Approval** – HB 1287 allowed for the development of a state-approved alternative licensure program. Katherine Terras with Certification Central has worked to develop a competency based alternative licensure program for special education and is presenting it to PAAC for approval. Cheryl Nilsen made motion to approve Certification Central’s application for program approval. Motion seconded by Josh Standing Elk. Both Cheryl and Josh commented that essential items are present in the program and it appears to be aligned with the necessary standards.

Ben Johnson asked for clarification on what has changed in the past year, for PAAC and ESPB to allow an alternative program like this. Not only does HB 1287 allow for it, but Becky pointed out that this program appears to have more rigor than American Board, an alternative licensure program that was approved by the legislature in the 2019 session.

PAAC members who voted in favor of the motion were Brenda Tufte, Stacy Duffield, Cheryl Nilsen, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Ben Johnson, Josh Standing Elk, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, and Jessica Rush. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Certification Central Special Education Endorsement Program of Study (Behavior Intervention Specialist)** – In addition to the alternative pathway to licensure developed by Certification Central, they have also developed and submitted a request for a special education endorsement for behavior intervention. Andi Dulski-Bucholz made a motion to approve the proposed special education endorsement for behavior intervention. Motion

seconded by Cheryl Nilsen. PAAC members who voted in favor of the motion were Brenda Tufte, Stacy Duffield, Cheryl Nilsen, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Ben Johnson, Josh Standing Elk, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, and Jessica Rush. None opposed. Motion carried.

**NDSU Business Education** – NDSU has submitted a request for review and approval of their business education program. Ben Johnson commented that this would be a great opportunity for students, especially with business education being a high need area. It is well documented how they will meet standards. Ben Johnson made a motion to approve NDSU's business education program. Motion seconded by Jessica Rush. PAAC members who voted in favor were Brenda Tufte, Stacy Duffield, Cheryl Nilsen, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Ben Johnson, Josh Standing Elk, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, and Jessica Rush. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College** – At the January 2020 meeting, PAAC voted to revoke approval for NHSC's program in elementary education. At the March 12, 2020, meeting, PAAC voted to revoke the program approval at the end of the Spring 2020 semester, to allow the one person in the program who is currently student teaching to complete their requirements.

With permission from PAAC, PAAC Chair Brenda Tufte allowed those attending the meeting from NHSC to speak.

Dr. Hartman asked for clarification on what PAAC means by capacity. Brenda spoke to this, that PAAC are not necessarily referring only to the number of students in the program. The capacity is more in relation to assessments, having relevant instruction in place to help students be successful on the assessments, and gathering data on students who are in the program. Even with the extensions, PAAC still wasn't seeing evidence that assessments, coursework, and data gathering weren't meeting or aligned to the standards. Becky Pitkin commented that there seemed to not be an understanding of the amount of work needed to complete this task, which may be due to lack of training.

Dr. Hartman asked for more communication and guidance on what NHSC's steps should be going forward. Another student is prepared to begin student teaching Fall 2020. Becky reiterated that at this time, NHSC does not have an approved program and these students really should not move along in the program.

Candie Weyrauch expressed that their concern is if students will be able to finish their program if they go to a different university, as most universities require that a certain amount of the program or credits must be completed at that university in order to graduate. Brenda Tufte did state that the concern for students is what PAAC has agonized over through this process, and a large part of why extensions continued to be granted.

Cheryl Nilsen stated her biggest concern is how PAAC can facilitate a re-application (how soon), and how the things can be in place to demonstrate capacity so that students who graduate can be set up to be successful. NHSC will need to consider this

and how soon they can have these things in place so their application can be resubmitted for approval and the program can continue.

Stacy Duffield stressed that program approval is about assurance that a program is preparing people to have knowledge and skills for people to become good teachers. This evidence was not presented. While going through program approval, it's advisable to have someone to take the lead that has the time and knowledge to put together a program that meets standards. Stacy recommends starting there, as NHSC prepares to move forward and re-submit their application for approval. She also suggested bringing in another person to help create that system.

Candie Weyrauch asked for clarification in terms of program capacity – that it's not a matter of numbers, but a matter of assessment being ready to be given to students. Cheryl Nilsen also noted that the assessments must be appropriate, determined when the assessments are administered, and then what will be done with the data gathered from the assessments. A system of gathering data must be in place, then using that data to develop the system as needed.

Dr. Hartman asked PAAD for any and all assistance available. NHSC would like to begin the process to reapply for approval as soon as possible.

Becky Pitkin asked Dr. Hartman and Mr. Rainbow to send a formal request to be allowed to begin again. They should have a plan in place that will enable them to be successful.

Stacy Duffield made a motion to accept a re-application for approval from NHSC. Motion seconded by Cheryl Nilsen. A subcommittee of PAAC may need to be developed to provide information to NHSC on what evidence will be needed to move forward. NHSC's application would not automatically remove the revocation. PAAC will need to provide feedback to NHSC regarding a statement they can provide to their students about when the program may be accredited again.

PAAC members who voted in favor were Brenda Tufte, Stacy Duffield, Cheryl Nilsen, Andi Dulski-Bucholz, Ben Johnson, Josh Standing Elk, Mary Eldredge-Sandbo, and Jessica Rush. None opposed. Motion carried.

Becky asked the institution to allow her 7 days before she reaches out to them with follow-up communication.

Ben Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Andi Dulski-Bucholz. Meeting adjourned at 9:06am.

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Brenda Tufte, Chair

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Rebecca Pitkin, Secretary/Executive Director