

MINUTES
Programs Committee
State Board of Community Colleges
Thursday, January 7, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sam Powell, chair
Bobby Irwin

Ann Whitford
Mary Ann Rice

Hari Nath
William Holder

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jesse Watts

NCACCP LIAISONS

Amanda Lee, President, Bladen CC
David Heatherly, President, Coastal Carolina CC

SYSTEM OFFICE STAFF AND OTHERS:

Kimberly Gold, Vice
President
Alex Doles
Sondra Jarvis
Bryan Jenkins

Bill Carver
Jonathan Harris
Deana Guido
Elizabeth Grovenstein
Lisa Eads

Lori Byrd
Mary Shuping

WELCOME AND ETHICS STATEMENT: Dr. Powell called the meeting to order at 1:00pm in the Dallas Herring State Board Room in the Caswell Building. Roll was taken and there was a quorum. Dr. Powell read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Statement and asked if there were any known conflicts. None were noted.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Dr. Powell requested a motion to approve the January 7, 2021 agenda. Mr. Nath made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Rice seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved by the committee.

FOR INFORMATION:

Curriculum Program Application (Attachment PROG 01)
Background on Program Approval Application Process (Discussion Only)
Chairman Powell provided a brief background on this item.

Mr. Nath asked for clarification on the maximum number of possible graduates from the Medical Sonography program compared to the actual number of students graduating, what may be causing graduation rates lower than the maximum capacity, whether clinical sites are a key concern in the lower number of graduating students, and how this information would impact approval for Central Piedmont Community College's (CPCC) application. Dr. Gold referred to documents that were included in CPCC's application, stating that the data Mr. Nath referred to came from the System Office database. Each college is asked to demonstrate that there is student interest, employer support for the program, and that there are job opportunities in program applications. South Piedmont CC (SPCC) and

CPCC both included documents on their stances as well as information regarding the impact CPCC's program approval would have on other Medical Sonography programs within the System. Chairman Powell commented on the data that shows job openings across the state, the number of Medical Sonography graduates per year, and the competition NCCC students face from Medical Sonography students graduating from other NC institutions and from outside the state. He noted discussions the Committee has had surrounding the number of training sites in North Carolina and whether the job market would be harmed either from the community colleges producing too many or too few graduates. Recent applications from Wake Technical Community College and Fayetteville Technical Community College also included data that this job market has almost reached saturation and that recent graduates may be having or will have difficulties in finding Medical Sonographer jobs.

Mr. Irwin moved to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute section 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with General Counsel to protect attorney-client privileged discussion. Ms. Whitford seconded, Committee approved via roll call vote.

The Committee asked questions of General Counsel related to the scheduled hearing, including format, procedure, and State Board Code.

The Committee entered open session following a motion by Mr. Holder, a second by Mr. Irwin, and roll call vote by the Committee.

Mr. Irwin asked if this was a new application resulting from the original application that was denied by the State Board in 2019 and what changes were made to the new application. CPCC submitted a new application and it is being treated as an update of the original. The meeting on January 14th will focus on the new application. Mr. Irwin asked if the data will be confirmed prior to the meeting. Some of the data is from System Office data provided by the colleges but the Committee members will need to evaluate the information from other sources.

Ms. Whitford provided some potential options the Committee could take at the January 14th and the impact of those decisions. The Committee further discussed impacts and concessions first discussed in 2019 and how those are applicable or amplified in today's economic landscape.

Mr. Holder asked if the 145 slots are what is currently available to the community colleges and, if the colleges are producing only 80 graduates per year, could those sites be shared by two colleges. He also asked if other colleges are facing the issue of sending students to different sites and whether there is an excess capacity within the program to support 145 students. Those 145 slots are slots available at clinical sites for the ten community colleges offering this program at the time the application was submitted. Mr. Holder noted that there needs to be care taken that the colleges are not offering a program that cannot be fulfilled.

Chairman Powell asked if the System could graduate 145 students per year or if those slots are the total available to both first year and second year students in the two-year program. Graduating students is dependent on them being able to complete all clinical requirements for the program. Two of the ten community colleges started their programs within the last year and have not produced a graduating class yet, thereby likely increasing the number of graduates per year when the first cohorts graduate.

Ms. Whitford asked if there may be clinical sites that provide only one area of training from the multiple areas that students need competency in or do the clinical sites provide all the training needed for student competency. The sites would typically specialize in one area and students would need to go to multiple sites to attain all skills required for the degree. Ms. Whitford commented that the limited clinical sites seem to be a common theme in medical programs such as nursing and sonography.

Mr. Holder asked about the intense interest in this specific program when other programs are not facing this, particularly when there appears to be data showing that the market may be saturated and salaries showing a downward trend. Ms. Whitford commented that this program is important to SPCC as they have invested quite a bit of money over the many years of offering this program and regularly have 100% graduation rates. This program is also only one of three medical programs offered at SPCC and this is an important program for the college based on the amount of money they have invested over the years and the amount of FTE it generates for the college. Ms. Whitford pointed out that the question the Committee and the Board needs to determine is whether one school will be harmed if the other is allowed to start the program.

The Committee further discussed the reasonings behind CPCC's interest in opening this program when there is conflicting data showing declining viability in this job market. Chairman Powell concluded that the Committee would like to see CPCC offer this program but not at the expense of SPCC's program.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm on a motion by Mr. Irwin, seconded by Mr. Nath, and approved via voice vote.

Recording Secretary
Alexandra Doles