

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Program Enrollment Prohibition

MEETING DATE: September 10-11, 2020

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

During the June 11, 2020 ARSA meeting, the Committee discussed the appropriateness of students being enrolled in a program prior to Board approval. Currently, the Board's policy does not explicitly state that students cannot be accepted or enrolled in a degree program prior to the program being approved by the Board. The ARSA Committee subsequently requested that the Board's policy be revised to state explicitly that students cannot be accepted or enrolled in a program prior to Board approval.

Existing policy, *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7*, provides for the addition of new degrees, programs, and majors. While the policy states that Board approval is required before any new degree, major or program is added, there is no specific limitation that concerns accepting or enrolling students into a program prior to Board approval.

The Office of Academic and Student Affairs recommends revising Board policy to clarify institutions must have Board approval on new programs prior to the acceptance or enrollment of students into the program.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise *Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7* language to require institutions to secure Board approval prior to student acceptance or enrollment into a program.

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

At the June 11, 2020 ARSA meeting, the Committee members requested a review of the appropriateness of a student being enrolled in a program prior to Board approval.

5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Not applicable. This is a clarification to Board policy that does not directly impact NSHE strategic goals.

6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- Board policy currently requires Board approval prior to establishing a new program. This revision supports the existing policy by clarifying that programs cannot be put into place prior to Board approval.
- Requiring an institution to obtain Board approval of a new program prior to accepting or enrolling students into the program avoids possible loss of credits or unattainable credentials.
- Per the *NSHE Procedures and Guidelines Manual*, Chapter 6, Section 12, without Board approval, the institution cannot award the program's credential.

7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

8. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

The Board may maintain the current policy and not adopt the suggested new language.

9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

The Chancellor's Office supports this recommendation.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____ Chapter #_____ Section #_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Current Board Policy: <i>Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
Explain:_____

POLICY PROPOSAL - HANDBOOK

Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 7

**Addition or Change of New Degrees, Majors, Programs
Departments, Schools or Colleges**

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 7. Addition or Change of New Degrees, Majors, Programs, Departments, Schools or Colleges

1. It is the policy of the Board of Regents that before any new degree, major, program, school, college, center, institute, or other organization unit may be added, such proposal must be approved by the Board of Regents. Internal administrative changes, including but not limited to the addition or elimination of departments, do not require approval by the Board of Regents.
2. Each President is responsible for completion of institutional review procedures. Following that, proposals will be forwarded to the Office of Academic Affairs in the Chancellor's Office prior to the Board of Regents' meeting to allow for review by the Academic Affairs Council, which will submit recommendations to the Chancellor for action by the Board of Regents.
3. The format for consideration of new programs shall be provided by the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.
4. *An institution shall not accept or enroll students into an academic program until such program is approved by the Board of Regents pursuant to this Section.*

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RENUMBER SUBSECTIONS 4 THROUGH 6 AS 5 THROUGH 7