



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANGELA R. FAHERTY, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: # X.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Angela Faherty, Ph.D., Commissioner*

DATE: December 15, 2010

SUBJECT: Request from the University of Maine at Presque Isle for Extension of Current State Program Approval of its Educator Preparation Programs through Early Winter 2011

Background: A program approval visit to the University of Maine at Presque Isle was scheduled to be conducted in mid-to-late-February, 2011 for the purpose of reviewing its educator preparation programs. On November 29, 2010, Dr. Donald Zillman, President, and Dr. Michael Sauntau, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) were informed by Dr. Reginald Nnazor, Chair of the UMPI Department of Education, that he had applied for, was offered and has accepted a position as Dean of the College of Education at North Central Ohio University. Dr. Nnazor will assume his new position by mid-December 2010.

Given the uncertainties that Dr. Nnazor's departure represents, Drs. Zillman and Sauntau are requesting that UMPI's current State program approval be extended to early-winter of 2012 and that the next State program approval visit be scheduled for February or March 2012.

Chapter 114, Part 3.11, *Action by the State Board of Education*, subsection e) reads as follows:

Requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education; however, such extensions shall not extend the date when the subsequent approval is due. The Board will only consider such requests in emergency situations.

Recommendation: That the State Board of Education act favorably upon the request from the University of Maine at Presque Isle to extend current State program approval for its educator preparation programs through early winter of 2012 and that the program approval visit be scheduled for February or March 2012. It is understood that, with a grant of this extension, the University will be limited to a maximum of four years of State program approval, instead of five years, following the 2012 Review Team visit.

* Prepared by Harry Osgood, Higher Education Specialist