
6B

Action

Professional Services Committee

Initial Institutional Approval

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents one prospective program sponsor for initial institutional approval by the Commission.

Recommended Action: That the Commission approve the application for initial institutional approval submitted by Brandman University.

Presenter: Teri Clark, Administrator,
Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs

June 2009

Initial Institutional Approval

Introduction

This agenda item presents one prospective program sponsor for initial institutional approval. The institution is Brandman University, a university within the Chapman University System. Brandman University was formerly known as Chapman University College. Chapman University and Brandman University have completed the process to separate and become separately accredited distinct universities. As a result of this development Brandman University is seeking initial institutional approval from the Commission.

Background: Initial Institutional Approval

Prior to 1995, institutions not previously approved to offer programs of professional preparation would submit a program proposal responding to the preconditions and standards of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. If the institution was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) or another regional accrediting body and if the response to the preconditions and standards was judged to be satisfactory, the Commission voted to give approval to the institution to begin offering one or more educator preparation programs.

With the adoption of the *Accreditation Framework* in 1995, the Commission made a distinction between “initial approval of institutions” and “initial approval of programs.” This distinction has been maintained in the current 2007 *Accreditation Framework* and is described below.

Policies for Initial Approval of Institutions

Pursuant to California Education Code, the Commission has the authority to determine the eligibility of institutions to offer educator preparation programs and to recommend issuance of credentials to candidates completing programs of preparation. This authority also applies to other program sponsors such as county offices of education, who were made eligible to sponsor professional educator preparation programs through subsequent legislation.

Education Code Section § 44227 (a) – The Commission may approve any institution of higher education whose teacher education program meets the standards prescribed by the Commission, to recommend to the Commission the issuance of credentials to persons who have successfully completed those programs.

Education Code Section § 44372 – The powers and duties of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing regarding the accreditation system shall include the following:

- (c) Rule on the eligibility of an applicant for accreditation when the applying institution has not previously prepared educators for state certification in California, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 44227.

Adopted Procedures for Initial Institutional Approval and Initial Program Approval

An institution that wishes to offer a credential program in California and that has not previously been declared eligible to offer a credential preparation program must undergo a two stage initial approval process: 1) initial institutional approval, and 2) initial approval of programs as described below.

- 1) **Initial Institutional Approval:** The institution (program sponsor) that has not previously been declared eligible to offer credential preparation programs must submit an application to the Commission for initial institutional approval. The institution prepares a complete program proposal that responds to all preconditions, Common Standards and appropriate Program Standards. The application is reviewed for compliance with the appropriate preconditions (such as regional accreditation [or governing board approval], identification of position responsible for oversight, non-discrimination procedures, completion of a needs assessment, involvement of practitioners in the design of the program, and agreement to provide information to the Commission). Once compliance has been established, the application is brought before the Commission for *initial institutional approval*. This stage determines only an institution's *eligibility* to offer an approved program.
- 2) **Initial Approval of Programs:** Once the Commission acts favorably on institutional approval, the *program* proposal is forwarded to the Committee on Accreditation for action. The program sponsor is required to respond to the appropriate credential program standards for each program the institution wishes to offer. These responses are reviewed by a panel of expert advisors, or in some cases, Commission staff, to determine the sufficiency of the responses. Once it is determined that the program proposal meets the Commission's program standards, the program sponsor is recommended to the Committee on Accreditation for *initial program approval*.

Once granted initial program approval, the institution is given authority to begin the program and will then come under the Commission's continuing accreditation procedures.

Request for Initial Institutional Approval

Chapman University (formerly Chapman College) has a long history of educator preparation in California. It was approved by the State Board of Education to offer teacher preparation prior to the implementation of the Ryan Act in 1973. In recent years, the main campus has been referred to as Chapman University while the many off site locations have been referred to as Chapman University College. In recent months, these two entities have taken steps to become distinct educational entities. On February 10, 2009 the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) formally recognized Chapman University and Brandman University (formerly Chapman University College) as two separate entities. In May 2009, Chapman University College announced its formal name change to Brandman University. An excerpt from its press release is included below:

Chapman University today announced the renaming of Chapman University College to Brandman University reflecting the generous \$10 million donation by The Brandman Foundation. Brandman University, a separate, fully accredited

university within the Chapman University System focused on adult students, will serve more than 10,000 working students both online and at 25 campuses in California and Washington State. (<http://www.brandman.edu/> accessed May 4, 2009)

Given that Brandman University is now a separate WASC-approved educational entity, this agenda item now requests Commission action to approve Brandman University as an individual educator preparation institution.

Brandman University has submitted a complete response to the Commission's Preconditions and Common Standards. The responses to the preconditions and standards were reviewed by Commission staff and were determined to be appropriate for this first level of review. Commission action to grant initial approval will award initial institutional approval to Brandman University and allow Brandman University to offer Commission approved educator preparation programs.

Recommendation

Based upon a determination that the applicant has met all relevant Preconditions, Common Standards, and requirements, staff recommends that the Commission grant initial institutional approval to Brandman University.