

BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary
Education Commission

DATE	Monday, April 20, 2020
TIME	1:00 PM
LOCATION	Via teleconference
PURPOSE	Quarterly Commission Meeting

Meeting Chair	Mollie Cohen
Meeting Title	Board of Commissioners
Members Present	Mollie Cohen, Chair Karen Gilbert, Vice Chair Toby Hinton, Secretary Lee Todd Amanda Shailendra Norma Nunez-Cortes Ryan Blythe Holly Kirbo Dr. Arthur Vaughn Victoria Agyekum
Members Absent	None
Staff Present	Kirk Shook, Executive Director Dr. Laura Vieth, Deputy Director Shirlene Mitchell, Administrative Supervisor/Office Manager Adam Hawk, GA-SARA Coordinator Pat Neri, Program Manager Maggie Rivers, Program Manager Phil Embry, External Auditor Michael Kaiser, Regulatory Specialist Kimberly Searcy, Regulatory Specialist Chad Woodard, Regulatory Specialist
Visitors	Kayla Washington, Office of Planning & Budget Brian Annino, GSFC General Counsel Jet Toney, Cornerstone Communications Group, Inc. Stephen Blackwood, Director, Ralston College Alton McLendon, Director, Peach State School

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM and called the roll.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Executive Director Shook noted that the final action item on the agenda should be removed given the decision by the Trustees to take up the Argosy bond disbursement action at future special called meeting. Commissioner Shailendra moved to adopt the Agenda as amended for the April 20, 2020 Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission. Commissioner Todd seconded the motion.

Upon unanimous vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the Agenda for the April 20, 2020 Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission be adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Gilbert moved to adopt the Minutes from the January 27, 2020 Quarterly Meeting of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission. Commissioner Agyekum seconded the motion.

Upon unanimous vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes from the January 27, 2020 Meeting of the Georgia Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission be adopted.

4. QUARTERLY REPORT (unaudited): TUITION GUARANTY TRUST FUND

Chair Cohen acknowledged that the Board of Trustees were present for the earlier Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund meeting and therefore, she entertained a motion that the TGTF Quarterly Report be adopted, respectfully.

Commissioner Vaughn moved to adopt the Quarterly Report of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2020, as presented previously. Secretary Hinton seconded the motion.

Upon unanimous vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the Quarterly Report of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2020, as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund, **be adopted**.

5. APPROVAL OF ARGOSY BOND SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT AND AGENCY ACTIONS RELATED THERETO

Executive Director Shook presented the Argosy Bond Settlement and Release Agreement entered into by the agency and Argosy's surety company, Philadelphia Indemnity. The terms were reviewed by the Attorney General's Office and GSFC's General Counsel. Additionally, a timeline of events of agency actions taken since the closure was presented.

Commissioner Kirbo moved to approve the Argosy Bond Settlement and Release Agreement and all agency actions related thereto. Secretary Hinton seconded the motion.

Upon unanimous vote, it was **RESOLVED** that the Argosy Bond Settlement and Release Agreement and all agency actions related thereto **be adopted**.

6. APPROVAL OF POLICY CHANGES

Chair Cohen opened the floor for the reading of submitted comments or those wishing to speak regarding policy changes. Director Shook presented a written submission from Ralston College opposing the passage of *Policy 14: Permitted Programming of Unaccredited Institutions*. Additionally, Alton McLendon from Peach State School spoke to the Commission concerning her opposition to Policy 14. After much discussion, Secretary Hinton moved to make a change in the language to accommodate some of the presented concerns of the institutions. Commissioner Shailendra seconded the motion. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to make these changes. However, given the requirement that all policy changes be presented to the public at least 7 days in advance of voting, the Commissioners agreed to table *Policy 14* until a future meeting, after the agency has had time to amend the policy and provide requisite public notice.

Director Shook presented *Policy 15: Program Offerings of Unaccredited Initial Applicants*. After a brief discussion, Secretary Hinton moved to approve *Policy 15*. Vice Chair Gilbert seconded the motion.

Upon unanimous vote, it was **RESOLVED** that *Policy 15: Program Offerings of Unaccredited Initial Applicants* **be adopted**.

Policy 15 will read as thus:

1. Any institution seeking initial authorization in Georgia that is not institutionally accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education is limited to the new program application of three (3) programs as part of its Application Evaluation Fee.

2. If said institution seeks approval of more than three (3) programs during the initial authorization application process, the Program Evaluation Fee, in accordance with the then current published Schedule of Fees as adopted by the Commission, will apply to each additional program.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Presented by Kirk Shook, Executive Director

- GNPEC FY20 Operations Budget (3rd Quarter, ending March 31, 2020)
- AFY20 Budget/Budget Cuts
- FY21 Proposed Budget Cuts/Budget
- FY21 Hiring
- COVID-19 Agency Response/Business Continuity Plan
- Argosy Bond Update
- Georgia Trade School
- Agency Legislation, presented by Maggie Rivers
- E-Commerce, presented by Laura Vieth

No approval required.

8. FY20 THIRD QUARTER NEWLY AUTHORIZED SCHOOLS

Presented by Dr. Laura Vieth, Deputy Director

No.	First Date of Authorization	Institution	Fiscal Type	Bond Amount
1	January 14, 2020	Brighter Tomorrows Consulting Institute (Griffin, GA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers certificates in counseling 	For-profit	\$50k
2	January 23, 2020	Voorhees College (Denmark, SC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) • Offer degree in business 	Nonprofit	\$50k
3	January 30, 2020	University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences/ Irving (Irving, CA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC Sr) • Offers degrees in occupational therapy and speech pathology 	For-profit	\$30k
4	February 11, 2020	Herzing University/Birmingham (Birmingham, AL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) • Offers certificates and degrees and nursing and EMT training 	Nonprofit	\$100k
5	February 13, 2020	Southface Energy Institute (Atlanta, GA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers certificates in green construction 	Nonprofit	\$50k
6	February 21, 2020	Atlanta Medical Assistant School (Atlanta, GA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers a certificate in medical assisting 	For-profit	\$50k
7	February 24, 2020	Northcentral University (La Jolla, CA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC Sr) • Offers degrees in business, education, therapy and other areas 	Nonprofit	\$200k
8	February 29, 2020	Cyber Institute of Atlanta (Fayetteville, GA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers certificate in network security 	For-profit	\$50k
9	March 11, 2020	Neurodiagnostic Technology Institute (Orlando, FL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers a certificate in neurodiagnostic technology 	For-profit	\$20k
10	March 12, 2020	AV Enterprise Training Center (Cumming, GA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers IT certificates 	For-profit	\$50k
11	March 18, 2020	Tomorrow's Healthcare Professionals, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaccredited • Offers allied health certificates 	Nonprofit	\$20k

No approval required.

9. FY20 THIRD QUARTER STAFF ACTIONS

Presented by Dr. Laura Vieth, Deputy Director

No.	Action	Date	Institution
1	Student Records Demand Letter (10 campuses) 1. <i>University of Phoenix/Alpharetta</i> (closed 6/30/2012) 2. <i>University of Phoenix/Snellville</i> (closed 6/30/2013) 3. <i>University of Phoenix/Brookstone</i> (closed 9/5/2013) 4. <i>University of Phoenix/Gwinnett</i> (closed 6/30/2015) 5. <i>University of Phoenix/McDonough</i> (closed 11/28/2016) 6. <i>University of Phoenix/Savannah</i> (closed 6/14/2017) 7. <i>University of Phoenix/DeKalb</i> (closed 8/31/2017) 8. <i>University of Phoenix/Macon</i> (closed 12/31/2017) 9. <i>University of Phoenix/Marietta</i> (closed 12/31/2017) 10. <i>University of Phoenix/Columbus</i> (closed 1/17/2020)	March 10, 2020	University of Phoenix 4025 South Riverpoint Parkway Phoenix, AZ 85040

No approval required

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The next Quarterly Commission Meeting is July 27, 2020, 2020 at 1pm (via teleconference).

A special called TGTF and Commission Meeting will be held on April 30, 2020.

11. ADJOURN

Commissioner Agyekum moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Hinton seconded the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

COMMISSION CHAIR APPROVAL:


Mollie Cohen (Jul 30, 2020 09:35 EDT)

Signature

Jul 30, 2020

Date

COMMISSION SECRETARY APPROVAL:


Toby Hinton (Jul 30, 2020 10:29 EDT)

Signature

Jul 30, 2020

Date









April 20, 2020 Commission Minutes

Final Audit Report

2020-07-30

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