

Credentials Taskforce 11.3.23

In attendance: Darrel Malamisura, Michelle Taylor, Betty Nash, Vincent Mateescu, Sarita Rhonemus

Call to order: 11:04am

Darrel forwarded all of the credential information to the taskforce members that was received to date. Deans and Directors have submitted credential information but we will need to follow up on programs that are unaccredited (i.e., HSMT, Computer Science, and all of arts and sciences)

Betty asked about Montana State University—affiliate faculty appointment, no pay—this is how they appoint faculty that have don't meet credentials of a master's degree.

The committee discussed that some of the listed HLC peer institutions were not even under the HLC umbrella anymore, but that most institutions had the minimum requirement of a master's degree in the field of study. Discussion ensued on our current special competence; the committee thinks a bachelor's degree and three years of experience is too weak for us (especially since we were awarded university status). Betty Nash will check on wording for enrolled in masters with licensure.

The committee agreed that we want to follow programmatic accreditation standards and that anyone that has a specialized license (RN, CPA) should be required to be enrolled in an accredited master's program (with a timeline for completion within a year) to be eligible to teach. Sarita then asked if that means that the programs are in "good standing" with their accrediting body. Michelle responded that has no bearing on whether we follow the credentials. Sarita then asked specifically about ACBSP because the status is currently "deferred". Michelle responded that it would not have been deferred had it not been for Dean Grogan, Dr. Blevins, and the president telling us to stop our efforts on the report that "Dr. Blevins is great at these and will have the report submitted by the June 2023 deadline". We found out upon our return to the university in August 2023 that had not happened and that the aforementioned parties just asked to delay it for another three years.

In our proposal for a policy on credentials we plan to link to faculty standards for all accredited programs; this will leave no room for interpretation outside of the programmatic standards. Michelle Taylor will draft a proposal.

Given the critical nature of this policy, Darrel must get Tammy/Terene to commit to the standards in which they want reflected in hiring. Blanket statements from HLC have caused major issues in the past. Credentials should be based off experience and peer institutions.