

## MINUTES

### NONPUBLIC POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION January 26, 2015 1:09 P.M.

Pursuant to notice, the Quarterly Meeting of the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission was held at 2082 East Exchange Place, Azalea Room, Tucker, Georgia 30084.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Victoria Agyekum	1 <sup>st</sup> Congressional District
Lee Todd	3 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District
Deb Wade	4 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Shelley Nickel	6 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Toby Hinton	7 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Martha Nesbitt	9 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Ryan Worsley	10 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Karen Gilbert	13 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Alexander Whitaker	14 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Clint Hobbs	AT LARGE

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Holly Kirbo	8 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Arthur Vaughn	11 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Norma Nunez-Cortes	12 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District
Milton Raven, Sr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Corinna M. Robinson	Executive Director
Shirlene Mitchell	Office Manager
Dr. Carl G. Camann	Deputy Director
Laura Vieth	Standards Administrator
Magda Rivers	Standards Administrator
Patricia Neri	Standards Administrator
Linda Exley	Standards Administrator
Adam Hawk	Standards Administrator
Phil Embry	NPEC External Auditor
Ben Sealy	Standards Administrator
Greg Ward	Standards Administrator
Blake Shively	Administrative Coordinator
Katherine LeDuke	Administrative Coordinator

**VISITORS:**

Janel Davis	Atlanta Journal Constitution Reporter
William Willoughby	Office of Planning & Budget

Chair, Shelley Nickel, welcomed Clint Hobbs back to the board. Mr. Hobbs served on the board previously and replaces the AT LARGE seat which was held by Trey Childress. Mr. Childress resigned due to a job opportunity in another state.

Executive Director, Corinna M. Robinson, introduced the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission staff to the board members.

## 1. INVOCATION

Ryan Worsley gave the Invocation.

## 2. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Janel Davis with the Atlanta Journal Constitution and William Willoughby of the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget were present.

## 3. SPECIAL ELECTION OF TUITION GUARANTY TRUST FUND (TGTF) BOARD MEMBER

Due to Corinna M. Robinson's governor appointee as Executive Director of the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission and resignation from the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional seat, caused a vacancy.

Karen Gilbert of the 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, was nominated as the 5<sup>th</sup> member of the board of trustees for the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund. Upon unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED**, that Karen Gilbert serve as a member of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund for FY2015, going forward.

Karen Gilbert accepted the position.

## 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alexander Whitaker made a motion to adopt the Agenda for the January 26, 2015 Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission. The motion was seconded by Victoria Agyekum.

Upon unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED**, that the Agenda for the January 26, 2015 meeting be adopted.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Clint Hobbs made a motion to adopt the Minutes from the October 6, 2014 Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission. The motion was seconded by Toby Hinton.

Upon unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED**, that the Minutes from the October 6, 2014 Quarterly Commission Meeting of the Nonpublic Postsecondary Education Commission be adopted.

## **6. NPEC Quarterly Report – Financial Report Ending DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Corinna M. Robinson, Executive Director, discussed the Regular Operating Budget financials for quarter ending December 31, 2014.

**Corinna M. Robinson elaborated on the following expenditures:**

- a. “Contracts” reflect an increase, but not really an increase. Special Purchase money that is amended back in toward the end of the FY (funds that NPEC already have available). The amended money that is used, is from Evaluation Fees from institutions. The Office of Planning and Budget allows these fees to be used for amending.
- b. “Telecommunications” increase is due to a one-time fee caused by NPEC transferring to a different phone system.

The Executive Director informs the board that NPEC is still under budget for overall operating expenses.

No approval required.

## **7. QUARTERLY REPORT: TUITION GUARANTY TRUST FUND**

Corinna M. Robinson, Executive Director, presented the Quarterly Report of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund for the six-month period ending December 31, 2014 (attached) as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund.

Toby Hinton made a motion to adopt the Quarterly Report of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund for the six-month period ending December 31, 2014 as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund. The motion was seconded by Ryan Worsley.

Upon unanimous vote it was **RESOLVED**, that the Quarterly Report of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund for the six-month period ending December 31, 2014 as approved by the Board of Trustees of the Tuition Guaranty Trust Fund be adopted.

## 8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Corinna M. Robinson, Executive Director, said that she is excited about her new position as executive director for NPEC and that she looks forward to continuing the agency's mission for careful oversight to insure all nonpublic schools and colleges are academically sound and financially stable. Executive Director recognizes that for profit colleges are experiencing some challenges, but would like to make sure our Georgia students are protected and receiving the education they invest in.

### Corinna M. Robinson discussed the following:

- a. In December, reached out to some Georgia legislators (and will continue to do so) to educate them about NPEC's responsibilities and duties.
- b. Plans to go on the road with some of her Standard Administrators and visit some of NPEC's authorized schools.
- c. NPEC produces an Annual Report each year that is submitted to the governor's office and the general assembly. This report, along with board meeting agendas and minutes can be found on NPEC's website ([www.gnpec.org](http://www.gnpec.org)).
- d. Overview of the Performance Audit Update, in response to the Performance Audit Report of March 15, 2013, presented to the board during the October 2014 board meeting is still a work in progress. Prior to Dr. William C. Crews' retirement, he responded to the Department of Audits with correspondence dated December 19, 2014.

The Department of Audits indicated that the final report should be released in late February 2015. Board members should receive a full copy of the report directly from the Department of Audits as well. The executive director will defer to comment further until the April 2015 board meeting.

## 9. New Business

Items/questions discussed:

- a. Viability of existing schools? Are there any authorized nonpublic postsecondary schools looking "rocky" right now?

Dr. Carl G. Camann, Deputy Director, answered with the following:

Anthem College closed recently and NPEC along with some of Anthem College staff, have successfully transferred students to other schools. NPEC has addressed approximately 15 complaints and have almost completely resolved those issues.

Corinthian Corporation (a nationally traded company), decided to sell their campuses that were located in Georgia. They are currently going through a

change of ownership through NPEC. The board will be given an update of the progress at the April 2015 board meeting.

- b. Corinna M. Robinson, Executive Director, informed the board that the agency (NPEC) has an agency legislation package to push through this year. The agency will be streamlining some processes. These are primarily administrative revisions, not changing what the primary role of NPEC.
- c. Shelley Nickel, Chair, discussed the urgency of SARA and why the board needs to start thinking about Georgia becoming a part of the SARA agreement. Three sectors outside of the nonpublic arena, Georgia Independent College Association, Technical College System of Georgia and the University System of Georgia have approached Ms. Nickel in support of Georgia becoming a part of SARA. SARA gives reciprocity between states so that Georgia students have access to programs across state lines and students in other states have access to what Georgia have to offer. Ms. Nickel would like to get the boards support in allowing the executive director to continue meeting with other entities to start the process of discussing pros and cons of this type of agreement for NPEC and Georgia students.

How does this impact NPEC? - NPEC has been designated as the portal to regulate anything that happens across the state lines. Why NPEC is ideal for this portal? - Because NPEC already have reciprocity language in our legislation.

Ms. Nickel ask that the board move SARA forward on the agenda to discuss during the April 2015 board meeting.

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No approval required.

## **10. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING OF NPEC**

### **Proposed 2015 Quarterly Meeting Dates:**

- Monday, April 20, 2015
- Monday, July 27, 2015
- Monday, October 19, 2015

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Karen Gilbert made a motion to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Victoria Agyekum.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Shelley Nickel, Chair