

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
HIGHER EDUCATION LICENSURE COMMISSION

Public Session No. 21-02
February 4, 2021 (virtual)
9:30 am

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Mary Dilworth called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Mary Dilworth, Ed.D., Chair
Commissioner John Cross, A.B., A.M., M.S., Vice Chair
Commissioner Estell Mathis-Lloyd, M. Ed., Secretary
Commissioner Harriet Segar, Esq.
Commissioner Anita B. Shelton, MSW

Staff Present: Angela Lee, Executive Director
Terasita Edwards, Deputy Director
Jocelyn Harris, Education Compliance Specialist
Alesia Henry, Education Compliance Specialist
Dorothy Thomas, Education Compliance Specialist
Chasity Cook, SAA Compliance Specialist
Nagesh Tammara, Attorney Advisor
Maia Turner, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present: Walden University
Debra J. Tervalva
JoAnn Emeneker
David Nichols
Staci R. Shelley
Roger L. McKinney

Institute of World Politics
Frank Marlo

Flatiron School
Alan Galegos

University of the Potomac
Andrea Ford

Amala Lives Institute

Brandi Forte
Keosha Douglas

VETS Group Training Academy
Joe Wynn

Dickinson College
Savon Jackson
Katie DeGuzman

United Planning Organization
Sheri Jones

NewU University
Stratsi Kulinski
Boriana Zaneva
Viktoriya Zotova

Medstar Washington Hospital Center
Ericka Lasley

Nexford University
Trisha Roque
Sheila Fournie-Bonilla
Monique Bivens
Dr. Robin Johnston
Fadl Al Tarzi

Washington School of Psychiatry
Kim Jones

University of the Potomac
Clinton Gardner
Sergei Andronikov

Paralegal Institute of Washington DC
Avon Alexander

Bard College
Emily Hayman
Clara Haskell Botstein

Relay Graduate School of Education
Peggy Simmons
Christine Eisenhauer
Kajal Ravani

iTeach, DC
Andrew Rozell

Middlebury College
Fariha Haque

UPO
Dianna Guinyard

DC Central Kitchen
Ja'Sent Brown

S.O.M.E. Center for Employment Training
Veronica Wright

Pepperdine University
Brian Swarts
David Smith

Transemantics, Inc.
Fredrik Skoglund

Lambda School
Juli Tarca

Mid-Atlantic College
Christopher Azoroh

Innovative Institute
Christopher Azoroh

Seton Hall University
Catherine Ruby
Courtney B. Smith

Stanford University
Adrienne Jamieson

Hamilton College
Carolyn North

Allied Health Institute
Frank B. Uzoma

Trinity Washington University

Debbie Van Camp

Public Attendees

Q

Ross White

Asen Dimitrov

Hilary Darilek

Ashley Washington

Raymond Weeden

Corrine Yamamoto

Kim Miller

Debra J. Tervalva

Melissa Bocan

Stephen Orvis

Sandra Neves

Dirk Keaton

Brandon Starling

Rasheem Rooke

II. Ascertainment of Quorum

Five (5) Commission members were present constituting a quorum.

III. Approval of the Agenda

The Commission voted to approve the February 4, 2021 agenda.

IV. Public Comment (reserved for agenda items only)

There were no comments from the public.

V. Consent Agenda

The Commission removed The Salon Professional Academy from the one (1) year approval and voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as follows:

A. Approval of the November 5, 2020 meeting minutes

The Commission voted to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2020 meeting with noted corrections to Commissioner John Cross's affirmative vote on page 9 of the document.

B. One-year approval list

Recommended approval for the following applications for one (1) year from the date of expiration.

RENEWALS & AMENDMENTS *submitted at time of renewal*

HELC Minutes
Public Session No.: 21-02
February 4, 2021

Institutions	Approval Type	Expiration Date if Approved
University of Southern California (D)	Renewal	11/30/2021
DC Central Kitchen (ND)	Renewal	07/31/2021
S.O.M.E. Center for Employment Training (ND)	Renewal	01/30/2022
Relay Graduate School of Education(D)	Renewal	03/31/2022
Flatiron School (ND)	Renewal	1/31/2022
Pepperdine University (D)	Renewal and Amendment	1/31/2022

AMENDMENTS ONLY

* The licensure period for institutions seeking approval to amend by adding new programs, new location or name change will synchronize with the institutions current license.

Institutions	Approval Type	Current Expiration
Lambda School (ND)	Program Amendment	11/30/2021
Bard College	Amendment	5/31/2021

CONDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS

Institutions	Approval Type	Expiration Date if Approved
Stanford University (D)	Renewal	11/30/2021
Seton Hall University (D)	Renewal	1/31/2022
Hamilton College (D)	Renewal	1/31/2022
Athabasca University (D)	Renewal	1/31/2022

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Institutions	Approval Type	Expiration Date if Approved
Trinity Washington University (D)	Renewal	March 31, 2022

AGENTS

Institutions	Approval Type	Expiration Date if Approved
Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (D)	Renewal	November 30, 2021

KEY: Institution Type: (D) – Degree (ND) – Non-Degree

C. SAA- Veterans Education approval list

The HELC, acting as the District of Columbia State Approving Agency for Veterans Education benefits, approved the following applications for the period of November 1- December 31, 2020:

NON-COLLEGE DEGREE (NCD)

Program Amendments

Institution Name	Program Name
VETS Group	Security Specialist Program
VETS Group	Project Management Professional Program
VETS Group	Network Specialist Program
VETS Group	Wireless Broadband Technician Program
VETS Group	Cable installation program

Initial Approval

Institution Name	Program Name
Amala Lives Institute	Culinary Arts; Hospitality
Institution Name	Program Name

D. Compliance and Monitoring Report

Upon review of the complaint it has been determined that the nature of the complaint is outside of the jurisdictional scope of the HELC.

Institution Name	Complainant	Case Number
Howard University	Motta	C2021-003

VI. Non-Consent Agenda (items removed from consent agenda)

A. The Salon Professional Academy

The Salon Professional Academy submitted an application requesting licensure renewal to continue to offer the following non-degree programs: cosmetology, esthetics and the Instructor Program.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application for licensure renewal submitted by The Salon Professional Academy for one (1) year, not to exceed January 31, 2022 with conditions that the institution submit the following information no later than March 6, 2021:

- Specifically, to whom does the institution distribute the syllabus?
- Is there a policy that indicates that no other person, other than the ones have been identified, are the ones who receive, and review complains? The institution is asked to respond to whether complaints are always referred to the panel or are there other ways in which the complaints are handled.

VIII. Applications for Licensure/Exemption/SARA/Amendment

A. Provisional

i. Dickinson College

Dickinson College submitted an application for Provisional Conditional Exemption under the provisions of DC Official Code §38-1310 (f) to offer the Dickinson in DC internship program.

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Lloyd, Segar; Opposed: Shelton) to approve the application for Provisional Conditional Exemption licensure submitted by the Dickinson College for a period of one (1) year, not to exceed February 4, 2022 with the condition that the institution be fined \$500 for unlicensed activity.

ii. Institute of World Politics

The Institute of World Politics submitted an application for program amendment to add the online degree programs as follows: Master of Arts in Statecraft and Strategy and Professional

Master of Arts in Statecraft. The institution also submitted an Initial Application for Institutional participation in SARA.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the applications submitted by the Institute of World Politics with the following condition to be satisfied by March 1, 2021:

- Submit the number of students who are District residents and the racial composition of the student body and faculty

The program amendments will synchronize with the current licensure and the request for initial participation in SARA is approved for 1 year.

iii. NewU University

The NewU University submitted an application for Provisional licensure to offer degree programs also follows: Psychology and Human Behavior, Entrepreneurship Creativity and Innovation Leadership.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the Provisional application submitted by the NewU University for one (1) year, no to exceed February 4, 2022.

B. Renewals/Amendment Applications

i. VETS Group Training Academy

VETS Group Training Academy submitted an application for program modification to decrease tuition and fees associated with currently approved non-degree certificate programs as follows: PC Specialist Program, Network Specialist Program, Security Specialist Program, AWS Cloud Computing Program, Cyber Security Professional Program Level 1, Cyber Security Professional Program Level 2, Microsoft Office Specialist Program, Web Development Certificate Program, Project Management Professional Program, Cable Installation Program, and Wireless Broadband Technician Program.

The institution also requested a waiver of the program amendment application fees.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application for program modification submitted by the VETS Group Training Academy synchronous with the current licensure approval.

The Commission voted (4 in favor: Cross, Lloyd, Segar, Shelton; 1 opposed: Dilworth) to approve the request for waiver of the program amendment application fees submitted by VETS Group Training Academy by reducing the fees to fifty percent and dividing the balance over a six-month installment plan. The institution will be required to remit two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) per month beginning March 1, 2021 to be paid in full by August 2021.

ii. Walden University

Walden University submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer 90 degree programs and 59 certificate programs. Additionally, the institution submitted an application to change the ownership to Adtalem Global Education, Inc.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application for licensure renewal for one (1) year, not to exceed January 31, 2022. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application for ownership change synchronous with the current licensure approval.

iii. United Planning Organization

The United Planning Organization submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer non-degree certificate programs as follows: National Registry Emergency Medical Technician Certification, IT Help desk and Application Support Specialist, Culinary Arts Professional, Building Maintenance Professional, Employment Workshop: Job Readiness Program, Electrical Technician, Plumbing Technician, Job Placement Employment Assistance and Case Management Services, Weatherization & Building Analyst, Strength Base Family Worker, Child Development Associate and Commercial Driver License.

The institution submitted a program amendment to modify the name of existing programs and to discontinue the Hospitality Industry Food Service Worker program.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application requesting licensure renewal for one (1) year, not to exceed November 30, 2021.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the requests for the program amendment and the program deletion submitted by United Planning Organization synchronous with the current licensure approval conditioned upon confirmation that the application fee was received.

iv. iTeach, DC

iTeach, D.C. submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer non-degree certificate programs in Teacher Certification and an amendment to change the ownership of its institution to Quad-C Management (“QCM”).

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by iTeach, DC for one (1) year, not to exceed January 31, 2022.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application requesting ownership change submitted by iTeach, DC synchronous with the current licensure approval.

v. LADO International

LADO International submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer non-degree certificate programs as follows: English as a Second Language (AM Intensive, Evening

Intensive, Morning Semi-Intensive, Evening Semi-Intensive, Saturday) and Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Lloyd, Segar; Abstention: Shelton) to defer action on the application submitted by LADO International.

vi. Middlebury College

Middlebury College submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer degree and non-degree certificate programs as follows: International Trade and Economic Diplomacy (Masters in Arts) and Conflict Resolution (Certificate Course).

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Lloyd, Segar; Abstention: Shelton) to defer action on the application submitted by Middlebury College until the April 1, 2021 public meeting and that the institution remit a fine in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for failure to submit a complete application.

vii. Medstar Washington Hospital Center

Medstar Washington Hospital Center submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer its non-degree medical imaging certificate program. The institution also submitted a program modification amendment to convert its existing program from clock hours to credit hours.

The Commission voted (In favor: Dilworth, Segar, Shelton; Opposed: Cross, Lloyd) to deny the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by Medstar Washington Hospital Center.

viii. Amala Lives Institute

Amala Lives Institute submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer non-degree certificate programs as follows: Culinary Arts and Hospitality.

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Lloyd, Segar; Abstention: Shelton) to defer action on the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by Amala Lives Institute until the April 1, 2021 public meeting.

ix. Washington School of Psychiatry

Washington School of Psychiatry submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer non-degree certificate programs as follows: Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy, Clinical Program on Psychotherapy Practice, Fundamental Concepts and Techniques of Dynamic Psychotherapy, National Group Psychotherapy Institute - Training and Conferences, Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy, Observational Studies: Seeing the Unseen in Clinical Work, Study of Aging and Clinical Applications, Supervision Training Program. The institution Feb. 1 withdrew their request for license amendment to modify its existing modality from residential to hybrid.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by Washington School of Psychiatry for one (1) year, not to exceed January 31, 2022.

x. University of the Potomac

University of the Potomac submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer its 29 degree programs, 15 certificate and 4 diploma programs.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by the University of the Potomac for one (1) year, not to exceed January 31, 2022.

xi. Nexford University

Nexford University submitted an application for licensure renewal to continue to offer its 17 graduate, under graduate, and certificate programs (see staff report for full listing).

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by Nexford University for a period of one (1) year, not to exceed November 30, 2021.

xii. Paralegal Institute of Washington, DC

The Paralegal Institute of Washington, DC submitted an application requesting licensure renewal to continue to offer non-degree certificate programs as follows: Paralegal Certification Course and Cite Checking Workshop. This submission was a required part of the institution's settlement agreement.

The Commission voted unanimously to separate the two items regarding the application requesting licensure renewal and the terms of the settlement agreement.

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Lloyd, Shelton; Abstention: Segar) to approve the application requesting licensure renewal submitted by The Paralegal Institute of Washington, DC not to exceed one (1) year, with conditions to submit timely monthly reports, a review of the board composition and consultant reports, and that the institution comply with the terms of the settlement agreement.

The motion to fine the institution for failure to submit a complete application timely failed. (In favor to fine: Dilworth, Segar; Opposed to fine: Cross, Lloyd, Shelton)

C. Closures

i. Nursing Assistant Academy

Per DCMR § 8122.1, the Institution is required to submit a renewal application 60 days prior to license expiration. Nursing Assistant Academy last license expired May 30, 2020. The Institution has failed to comply with the following standards:

- DCMR § 8104.2 - Failure to comply with requirements of the chapter
- DCMR § 8122 - Failure to renew timely (60 days prior to expiration)
- DCMR § 8129 - Failure to submit closure plan 90 days before closure
- DCMR § 8117 - Failure to properly maintain student records
- DCMR § 8130 - Failure to properly transfer student records to HELC

The Commission voted unanimously to apply to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for an order authorizing the seizure of the institution's records in accordance with the D.C. Official Code 38-1307 (4)(A).

ii. Kaplan International

Kaplan International submitted a closure form, to discontinue operation at 675 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 300 Cambridge, MA 02139 with a proposed effective date of February 11, 2021.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the closure plan submitted by Kaplan International.

iii. EC English

EC English submitted a closure form December 23, 2020, to discontinue operation at the District campus branch with a proposed effective date of March 20, 2020.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the closure plan submitted by EC English.

IX. Pending Cases

A. Denials/Infractions

i. Denial #D2020-004: Intellect Health Institute

On July 22, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Intent to Deny License Renewal ("NOID") to Intellect Health Institute ("Intellect"). The institution requested a hearing, which occurred on December 9, 2020. The Hearing Officer in this matter, Mr. David Martinez, presented his Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law dated 12/30/20 whereby he provided the following recommendation to the Commission:

"Intellect has not satisfied its burden by a preponderance of the evidence in the record. Intellect has failed to meet the requirements for its license renewal. HELC may proceed with its denial."

Pursuant to DCMR 8133.27, when the hearing officer's proposed decision about a non-degree granting institution is adverse, the respondent (the school) may file with the Commission exceptions and written argument in support thereof, which was received from Attorney Brian Bregman, counsel for the Intellect Health Institute on Jan. 28, 2021.

The Commission voted unanimously to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendations set forth by Hearing Officer David Martinez in this matter.

ii. Denial #D2020-002: Mid-Atlantic College

On March 5, 2020, the Commission, in public meeting, voted to deny Mid-Atlantic College's application for license renewal. On March 23, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Intent to Deny ("NOID") to Mid-Atlantic College. The institution requested a hearing, which occurred on November 17 & 18, 2020. The Hearing Officer in this matter, Mr. Jonathan Hall, presented his Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law dated January 15, 2021 whereby he provided the following recommendation to the Commission:

“Upon full consideration of the record in this matter, including the evidentiary hearing held on November 17 and 18, 2020, and a review of the applicable law, I find that Mid-Atlantic failed to meet its burden by a preponderance of evidence, and that the Commission’s Notice of Intent to Deny issued on March 23, 2020 should be upheld.”

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Lloyd, Shelton; Abstention: Segar) to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendations set forth by Hearing Officer Johnathan Hall in this matter.

iii. Denial #D2020-003: Innovative Institute

On March 5, 2020, the Commission, in public meeting, voted to deny Innovative Institute's application for license renewal. On March 23, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Intent to Deny ("NOID") to Innovative Institute. The institution requested a hearing, which occurred on November 17 & 18, 2020. The Hearing Officer in this matter, Mr. Jonathan Hall, presented his Findings of Facts and Conclusion of Law dated January 15, 2021 whereby he provided the following recommendation to the Commission:

“I conclude that Innovative has demonstrated, albeit in a significantly delayed manner, compliance with the Commission’s requirements for licensure. I note that the financial statements provided by Innovative were of limited probative value. However, based on the preponderance of the evidence, including Dr. Azoroh’s testimony, I conclude that Innovative has shown that it has adequate financial resources as required by 5A DCMR 8108. Accordingly, I recommend that the Commission approve Innovative’s application for renewal license.”

The Commission voted (In favor: Cross, Dilworth, Shelton; Opposed: Lloyd; Abstention: Segar) to accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendations set forth by Hearing Officer in this matter.

X. Extended Public Comment (limited to 2 minutes per person on any item/matter not listed on the agenda)

There were no comments from the public.

XI. Report of the Executive Director

A. After Action Report

The following are updates to conditions of license approval and other requests made by the Commission that the institutions have not satisfied as required:

- i. Toni Thomas & Associates d/b/a HOPE Project Training Academy** has not provided the updated certificate of liability insurance including the new approved institution name in the required timeframe.
- ii. Allied Health and Technology Institute** has not submitted either the Certificate of Clean Hands or the Certificate of Good Standing.
- iii. Duke University** is pending a cleared check payment required within 30 days of their renewal application.

The Commission did not take any action on the unresolved conditions of licensure.

The following is a report on those conditions of licensure satisfied as required:

- iv. Byte Back** has paid the amendment fee on July 13, 2020.
- v. Four Walls Career & Technical Education Center** provided a detailed evaluation letter, including information on job placement and retention rate on September 3, 2020.
- vi. Southeast Welding Academy** has provided the bank statement regarding the institution's capitol, the payment was received on October 5, 2020 and the institution has until October 31, 2020 to complete the Annual Data Survey.

B. Student Advisory Committee

The Student Advisory Committee (SAC) submitted a report that included two topics for the Commission to consider: 1) The vaccination distribution phases are not explicit regarding when higher education students, faculty and staff are eligible to receive the vaccine with the exception of essential workers and 2) students need support from their institutions in identifying a solution for students to complete summer internships and other career related job opportunities.

XII. Correspondence and Communications

A. Informational

i. Berlitz Languages, Inc.

RE: U.S. Department of Justice Investigation of Berlitz

In a letter dated January 11, 2021, Berlitz provide the Commission with background information on the U. S. Department of Justice Antitrust investigation its corporation. The sequence of events and major actions taken by Berlitz and the Department of Justice are outlined in the letter.

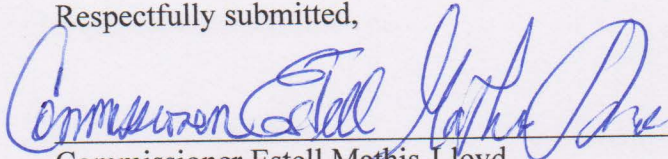
No action required by the Commission at this time.

XII. Next Public Meeting: April 1, 2021

XIV. Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Commissioner Estell Mathis-Lloyd
Secretary