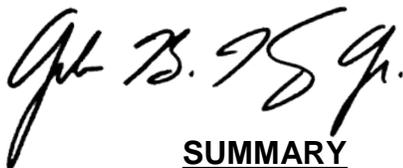




To: Higher Education Committee
From: John L. D'Agati 
Subject: Renewal of Institutional Accreditation: Christie's Education, Inc.

Date: June 11, 2012

Authorizations:


SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents grant renewal of accreditation to Christie's Education, Inc.?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the Higher Education Committee at its June 2012 meeting, where it will be voted on and action taken. It will then come before the full Board at its June 2012 meeting for final action.

Background Information

Christie's Education, Inc. is a single-purpose, graduate, proprietary college, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Christie's Inc., the auction house. Christie's Education, Inc. has offered study in Connoisseurship and the Art Market in London since 1978, and has operated in New York since 1993.

In 1998, the Board of Regents authorized Christie's Education, Inc. to confer the Master of Arts degree (M.A.) and to offer M.A. and Advanced Certificate programs in Connoisseurship and the Art Market. Earlier this year, the title of the M.A. program was changed to History of Art & the Art Market: Modern and Contemporary Art. Christie's Education, Inc. has been accredited by the Board of Regents since 2007.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents renew the institutional accreditation of Christie's Education, Inc. for a period of five years, with the condition that all recommendations in the report be met by May 22, 2014, with a progress report due on that date, and a follow-up review visit made at the discretion of the Department.

Regents with a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest on this application are asked to recuse themselves from participating in the deliberation and decision.

Attachment

Information in Support of Recommendation

Peer Review Visit

In preparation for a visit by a peer review team, Christie's Education, Inc. submitted a self-study following the requirements for self-studies in the Handbook of Institutional Accreditation. On February 28-29, 2012, a team of peers (Team) approved by the Department, along with Department staff, conducted a site visit to the college to assess compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation. During the visit, the Team interviewed faculty, administrators, staff, and students. The team also inspected classrooms, administrative offices, and library facilities, visited classes, and reviewed syllabi as well as a random sampling of student work.

Overall, the Team found the college to be in substantial compliance with the standards for institutional accreditation, and recommended renewal of institutional accreditation for five years, with the condition that all recommendations in the report be met by May 22, 2014, with a progress report due on that date, and with a follow-up review visit made at the discretion of the Department.

The Team recommended that the college develop a comprehensive institutional effectiveness and student learning outcomes assessment plan, which is linked to the institution's mission and tied to its strategic plan. Secondly, as the college has recently been approved by USDE to participate in Title IV financial aid programs, the Team recommended that the college develop internal controls to provide the appropriate checks and balances in implementing this program. The Team also recommended a few additions and corrections to information on the college's Web site and catalogue.

The Department transmitted the draft compliance review report to Christie's Education, Inc. for review and comment. The college accepted the draft report's recommendations and included evidence that the improvements recommended are ongoing or planned. Based on the self-study and the college's response, the Department concurred with the Team's recommendation.

Regents Advisory Council (RAC) Review

As required by Subpart 4-1 of the Regents Rules, the Department transmitted the final compliance review report for consideration by the Regents Advisory Council on Institutional Accreditation. (The RAC is established in §3.12(d) of the *Rules of the Board of Regents* "to review applications for accreditation and renewal of accreditation pursuant to Part 4 of this Title, and such other matters as the department may ask it to review, and make recommendations to the Regents and the commissioner based on its review.")

On May 17, 2012, the Advisory Council met to consider Christie's Education, Inc.'s application. In a public meeting, it met with the college's Director of Studies, the chair of the peer review team, and Department staff. RAC members discussed their observations and asked questions of the college's representative. The Council then voted unanimously to recommend renewal of institutional accreditation for five years,

with the condition that all recommendations in the report be met by May 22, 2014, with a progress report due on that date, and with a follow-up review visit made at the discretion of the Department.

Commissioner's Review

Neither Christie's Education, Inc. nor the Deputy Commissioner for Higher Education appealed the Advisory Council's recommendation. Therefore, pursuant to Subpart 4-1, the Commissioner adopted the Council's recommendation as his recommendation to the Board of Regents.

The attachment to this item sets forth the range of accreditation actions authorized under Subpart 4-1 of the *Rules of the Board of Regents*.

Rules of the Board of Regents

Subpart 4-1, Voluntary Institutional Accreditation for Title IV Purposes

§4-1.2 Definitions.

As used in the Subpart:

(a) *Accreditation* means the status of public recognition that the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Regents grant to an educational institution that meets the standards and requirements prescribed in this Subpart.

(b) *Accreditation action* means accreditation, accreditation with conditions, probationary accreditation, approval of substantive changes in the scope of accreditation, and denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation.

(c) *Accreditation with conditions* means accreditation that requires the institution to take steps to remedy issues raised in a review for accreditation, and provide reports and/or submit to site visits concerning such issues, provided that such issues do not materially affect the institution's substantial compliance with the standards and requirements for accreditation.

(d) *Adverse action* or *adverse accreditation action* means suspension, withdrawal, denial, revocation, or termination of accreditation or preaccreditation.

(q) *Probationary accreditation* means accreditation for a period of time, not to exceed two years, during which the institution shall come into compliance with standards for accreditation through corrective action.