

From: Ron Anderson, Ph.D. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

Date: October 4, 2016 at 5:52:18 PM CDT

To: MnSCU Leadership Council

Subject: Update on concurrent enrollment extension application

Dear College and University Presidents,

In the recently published September 2016 *Concurrent Enrollment Update*, the Minnesota State system office communicated that we are preparing a single application on behalf of all the colleges and universities of Minnesota State for an extension of the September 1, 2017 faculty qualifications compliance deadline. In that communication we stated that the extension would allow all current and new concurrent enrollment instructors to work towards meeting the faculty qualification standards while continuing to teach in a concurrent enrollment program.

Recently, a communication was shared from the Minnesota Rural Educators Association (MREA) that relayed information they received through direct communication with HLC. The communication indicated that any extension application would only apply to concurrent enrollment instructors teaching within a concurrent enrollment program **as of the date the extension application was filed**. Further, the communication stated that concurrent enrollment instructors hired after the extension filing date would need to immediately meet HLC guidelines, regardless of the outcome of the extension request.

Late last week Pakou Yang and I spoke directly with senior HLC staff to clarify this expectation and share with them our thinking and approach in preparing the extension application. As part of that discussion we indicated that we would be requesting **a common extension deadline** across all of our campuses, and that we would be asking for the extension to **include both current and potential future instructors**. The HLC staff indicated that if approved, both current and potential future instructors **could be covered under the deadline extension**. That is to say, between now and the extension deadline new instructors who do not yet meet minimum qualifications could be hired to teach within your concurrent enrollment program under a professional development plan that will result in the meeting of minimum qualifications by the extension deadline. (Note that this directly contradicts the information shared by MREA.) HLC staff were also clear to say, however, that upon reaching the extended deadline all concurrent enrollment instructors, including those hired after the extension deadline, must fully meet HLC faculty qualification requirements prior to teaching any concurrent enrollment course.

Please share this good news with your campus staff and concurrent enrollment partners. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Pakou Yang at pakou.yang@so.mnscu.edu.

Best regards,

Ron

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