

MINUTES

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

Remote Meeting via TEAMS Platform

March 9, 2023

The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) met on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Members Present

Jimmy Atkins	Kedrione Harris	Beth Townsend
Jeanine Bunn	Nathan Lewis	Dr. Jennifer Wade
Abigail Coggin	Dr. Franklin Perry	Carol Williams
Derek Easterling	Dr. Holley Roberts	Dr. Judi Wilson
Mark Kauffman	Jane Rookard	Vonda Woodall
	Dr. Brandon Seigler	

Members Absent

Jordan Frobos	Derek Easterling
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I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Sirmans called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Commissioners answered roll call for attendance.

II. VISITORS

Chair Sirmans welcomed the visitors.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Dr. Holley Roberts) To approve the agenda.

PSC ACTION: Approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the February 9, 2023 minutes.

PSC ACTION: Approved

V. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

A Day with the PSC - We work closely with Georgia's 16 RESAs on many initiatives. A Day with GaPSC series is one of these initiatives and is scheduled for March and April. This five-part series is co-hosted by regional groups of RESAs and provides updates, reminders, and resources regarding Certification, Ethics, Educator Preparation, and Assessment. These virtual events are designed for superintendents, deans, chairs, HR directors, and other certification and program officials in school districts, local schools, educator preparation providers, and others whose work intersects that of the GaPSC. If you are interested in attending one of these, please let me know.

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Reading Task Force – They are making progress on updating preparation rules to include evidence-based practices for preparing educators to teach reading and they are expected to conclude by the end of March.

Legislative update – We have been watching several bills. Here are three that we are following closely:

HB 147 – Safe Schools Act - This bill provides for a school safety and anti-gang endorsement for eligible certified professional personnel issued by PSC; require school safety plans to be submitted to GEMHSA; encourage postsecondary EPPs to include training re: safe schools and gangs; require intruder alert drills in all public schools in this state; require public schools to report completion of such drills to GEMHSA; provide for parents and guardians to opt their children out of such drills.

HB 538 - Georgia Early Literacy Act – This bill requires SBOE to approve high-quality instructional materials to be used for teaching students in kindergarten through third grade. It also requires SBOE to consult w/ PSC and others in developing literacy training programs for K-3 teachers and adds to our code section, 20-2-984, to ensure teacher prep students have the option to graduate with all the prerequisites necessary for elementary education certification and a reading endorsement.

SB 4 - Blind Persons' Braille Literacy Rights and Education Act – This bill requires an evaluation of a blind or visually impaired student to determine such student's need for Braille instruction by a certified teacher; requires Braille instruction in the individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student as appropriate; provide additional requirements for the individualized education program of a blind or visually impaired student; prohibit PSC from issuing or renewing a certificate for anyone to teach blind or visually impaired students unless the teacher has completed a course in Braille, holds a national certificate in Braille, or has passed a PSC-approved test in Braille.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Sirmans thanked Matt for his work at the capitol during this legislative session. He reminded the Commissioners that our May 11th meeting will be held at 10 am in-person and virtually. He welcomed Mark Kauffman to the Commission and asked him to introduce himself. Mark graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. He is the CEO of Treadmaxx Tire Distributors, formerly Kauffman Tire. He presently serves on the board of the Special Olympics of Georgia, the Lovett School Board of Trustees, and the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta System Board.

VII. RULES ADOPTION, INITIATION and PREVIEW

Anne Marie Fenton presented the rules.

In addition, in April, we will modify our rules schedule to bring before you for your initiation consideration proposed rules based on the work of the Reading Task Force. Those proposed rules will be previewed for you today.

RULES ADOPTION - For today's first rule item, we are bringing to you for your adoption consideration the Certification rule and Educator Preparation rules that were initiated by you at the January 12th Commission

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meeting. These rules, if adopted, will become effective April 15, 2023. You previously received the Adopt Rules Packet. Two public comments were received.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Jane Rookard) To a) amend the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-2-.39; b) repeal the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.24, 505-3-.54, 505-3-.55, 505-3-.56, 505-3-.57, 505-3-.58, 505-3-.60, 505-3-.83, 505-3-.91, 505-3-.98, 505-3-.99, 505-3-.101, and 505-3-.102; c) adopt the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective April 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.24, 505-3-.54, 505-3-.55, 505-3-.56, 505-3-.57, 505-3-.58, 505-3-.60, 505-3-.83, 505-3-.91, 505-3-.98, 505-3-.99, 505-3-.101, 505-3-.102, and 505-3-.113.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstention: Mark Kauffman

RULES INITIATION - For the 2nd rules action, we are asking you to initiate one Certification rule and three Educator Preparation rules that are listed below. If initiated, these proposed rules will be posted for a 30 day public comment and come back before you in May for your adoption consideration. The certification rule is proposed to become effective July 1, 2023, which is the date that works best for Certification business rules; the educator preparation rules are proposed to become effective June 15, 2023.

505-2-.194 FINANCIAL LITERACY ENDORSEMENT - It is proposed that GaPSC Rule 505-2-.194 FINANCIAL LITERACY ENDORSEMENT be INITIATED to create an endorsement that will allow qualified individuals to teach identified courses in financial literacy.

505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS - It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.01 REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR APPROVING EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROVIDERS AND EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS, dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to remove and/or simplify ambiguous terms, to replace the InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards with the Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards (TAPS), and to clarify language related to dyslexia and the teaching of reading.

505-3-.05 GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP) - It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.05 GEORGIA TEACHER ACADEMY FOR PREPARATION AND PEDAGOGY (GaTAPP), dated July 1, 2022, be AMENDED to remove and/or simplify ambiguous terms.

505-3-.06 PEDAGOGY-ONLY PROGRAM - It is proposed that GaPSC Educator Preparation Rule 505-3-.06 PEDAGODY-ONLY PROGRAM, dated October 15, 2021, be AMENDED to replace national standards with state-developed standards for teacher performance.

MOTION: (Beth Townsend / Kedrione Harris) To a) initiate the current rule in Chapter 505-2- Certification, effective July 1, 2023, as follows: 505-2-.194; and b) (2) amend the current rules in Chapter 505-3- Educator Preparation Rules, effective June 15, 2023, as follows: 505-3-.01, 505-3-.05, and 505-3-.06.

PSC ACTION: Approved

RULES PREVIEW - The rules to preview, which will come before you for your initiation consideration at the April 13th Commission meeting. First, Dr. Penney McRoy will preview the proposed Educator Preparation rule amendments, followed by Ms. Windy Fortenberry, who will preview the proposed Certification rule amendments.

Educator Preparation, Dr. Penney McRoy - We plan to propose for initiation in April potentially 16 Educator Preparation rules. In cooperation with the University System of Georgia, we are facilitating a task force comprised of reading and literacy experts from P-12 schools and program providers, including public and private universities, as well as RESAs. The task force is charged with examining all of our rules that include reading or literacy standards and revising them as needed to ensure they reflect evidence-based practices for the teaching of reading. Although the members of the task force are making progress, they needed more time to complete their work. Therefore, we plan to bring the following rules to you for your consideration in April rather than today.

For the eight rules listed here, we will ask you to repeal and replace them with new rules, with the same numbers and titles, and with updated program content standards.

1. 505-3-.13 Birth Through Kindergarten Program
2. 505-3-.19 Middle Grades Education Program
3. 505-3-.51 Reading Education Program
4. 505-3-.59 Special Education Preschool (Ages 3-5) Program
5. 505-3-.66 Literacy Specialist Program
6. 505-3-.82 Birth Through Kindergarten Endorsement
7. 505-3-.96 Reading Endorsement
8. 505-3-.100 Special Education Preschool (Ages 3-5) Endorsement

We will also bring to you a new rule called Foundations of Reading, Language, and Literacy. This will be an overarching rule, similar to Rule 505-3-.01, in that it will apply to teacher preparation programs for all grade levels, from Birth through Kindergarten through secondary and P-12 programs. The new Foundations rule will set expectations for preparing teachers to teach reading and address reading deficiencies at all grade levels. 10-15. At least three rules will be amended and they include the Elementary Education rule, the Educational Leadership Preparation Program Rules .76 (Alternative Preparation) and .77 (Traditional Preparation). Other rules may be added to this list, such as the Dyslexia Endorsement, Curriculum and Instruction, and Media Specialist. In the Educational Leadership rules, we are removing ambiguous terms and we expect the Reading Task Force to add one or more elements related to leading reading programs.

Finally, we plan to include the Foreign Language Program Rule, as the Foreign Language Task Force recently completed their work to update the program content standards.

Certification, Windy Fortenberry - We're changing the in-field statement of the following: a) 505-2-.141 Curriculum & Instruction; b) 505-2-.142 Instructional Technology; and c) 505-2-.149 Teacher Leadership. This change is being made to clarify that the fields are for strengthened and enhanced competence, rather than in-field to teach a subject.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ethics and Professional Conduct --Recommendations and Actions on Cases

Chair Beth Townsend of the Educator Ethics Review Committee (EERC), gave a preliminary review of the cases.

1. Chair Townsend reported that the Committee reviewed 57 *Probable Cause* cases during March 8, 2023, meeting and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-11-657	1,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
22-11-723	1	Reprimand	Accept
22-12-745	4, 9	Deny	Accept
22-12-785	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
22-12-801	5a2,5a7	Deny	Accept
23-1-824	1,4,5a7	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-928	1,4,5a7	NPC	Accept
23-2-931	1,5a7	Deny	Accept
21-5-1117	4, 5, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
21-6-1326	4, 5, 9, 5a7	NPC	Accept
21-11-540	1, 2, 9, 5a7	Revoke	Accept
22-1-851	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
22-2-963	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
22-3-1059	2, 9	NPC	Accept
22-3-1146	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
22-3-1172	1, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-4-1263	1,4,5a2,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
22-4-1274	2, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-4-1308	1,4,5a7,8,9	NPC	Accept
22-4-1314	1, 2, 9	Revoke	Accept
22-4-1340	2, 9	Revoke	Accept
22-5-1430	3, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-5-1455	9	Reprimand	Accept
22-5-1501	1,4,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-7-64	1,5a7,8,9	Revoke	Accept
22-9-337	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
22-9-475	8, 9	NPC	Accept
22-11-704	1, 2, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
22-11-707	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-11-721	2, 9	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-12-740	2,9	Reprimand	Accept

<u>CASE</u>	<u>STANDARDS VIOLATED</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-12-741	1, 2, 9	Revoke	Accept
22-12-744	1, 2, 9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
22-12-751	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-752	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-754	2, 9	Suspension 2 years	Accept
22-12-764	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-775	5a2, 5a4	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-776	5a2, 5a4	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-780	4,9	NPC	Accept
22-12-781	4,9	NPC	Accept
22-12-782	1,8, 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-12-784	1,4,5a7,8,9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-12-786	1, 5, & 9	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-12-791	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-12-810	4,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-832	1, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-836	1,4,8,9	Extend pending criminal outcome	Accept
23-1-846	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-854	2, 9	Reprimand	Accept
23-1-862	1 & 9	NPC	Accept
23-1-875	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-1-876	9	Suspension 90 days	Accept
23-1-879	4, 9	Suspension 20 days	Accept
23-1-887	2, 9	Suspension 10 days	Accept
23-2-933	1,4,5a7,8,9	Reprimand	Accept
23-2-945	1,4 (2014), 5a7, 9 (2014), 10 (2014)	Reprimand	Accept

2. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 2 *Petitions Issues* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>PREVIOUS SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-10-538	Revocation - 9/10/2018	Grant
23-1-822	Denial - 09/11/2014	Grant

3. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 9 *Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMEND</u>
22-5-1489	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-5-1512	Reprimand	Accept
22-8-281	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-9-375	Suspension 90 days	Accept
22-10-488	Suspension 20 days	Accept
22-10-612	Suspension 1 year	Accept
22-11-675	Reprimand	Accept
22-11-702	Suspension 20 days	Accept
22-12-729	Suspension 10 days	Accept

4. Chair Townsend reported that the Educator Ethics Review Committee reviewed 10 *Negotiated Settlement Agreements* and brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Committee:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATED SANCTION</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
19-8-341	NPC	Accept
20-6-1696	Reprimand	Accept
21-3-838	Warning	Accept
21-8-159	Warning	Accept
22-6-1620	Reprimand	Accept
22-6-1638	Reprimand	Accept
22-7-18	Suspension 5 days	Accept
22-8-168	NFA	Accept
22-8-190	Reprimand	Withdrawn
22-10-520	Suspension 47 days	Accept

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Other Business Report* as follows:

<u>CASE</u>	<u>FINDINGS OF FACTS</u>	<u>EERC RECOMMENDATION</u>
22-5-1503	No effective service.	Hold New App
22-12-790	No effective service.	Hold New App

6. The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the *Preliminary Investigative Determination Report* consisting of 92 new complaints received during the months of February and March 2023.

7. **VOLUNTARY SURRENDERS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of 4 *Voluntary Surrenders* listed below in which an Educator/Applicant voluntarily accepted a sanction of Revocation or Denial prior to the submission of an investigative case summary for a Probable Cause Determination.

CASE	STANDARDS VIOLATED	SANCTION	EERC RECOMMENDATION
22-12-744	1, 2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-1-837	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-1-840	2, 9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept
23-3-1133	9	Voluntary Surrender	Accept

8. **EXTENSIONS – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIVE DETERMINATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended approval of the 70 *Extensions - Preliminary Investigative Determinations* consisting of the following:

23-2-1024	23-2-1034	23-2-1061	23-2-1086	23-2-1096	23-2-1119	23-2-1128	23-3-1162
23-2-1025	23-2-1035	23-2-1062	23-2-1087	23-2-1097	23-2-1120	23-2-1129	23-3-1163
23-2-1026	23-2-1036	23-2-1078	23-2-1088	23-2-1112	23-2-1121	23-3-1130	23-3-1164
23-2-1027	23-2-1037	23-2-1079	23-2-1089	23-2-1113	23-2-1122	23-3-1131	23-3-1165
23-2-1028	23-2-1038	23-2-1080	23-2-1090	23-2-1114	23-2-1123	23-3-1132	23-3-1175
23-2-1029	23-2-1039	23-2-1081	23-2-1092	23-2-1115	23-2-1124	23-3-1158	23-3-1176
23-2-1030	23-2-1058	23-2-1082	23-2-1093	23-2-1116	23-2-1125	23-3-1159	23-3-1177
23-2-1031	23-2-1059	23-2-1083	23-2-1094	23-2-1117	23-2-1126	23-3-1160	
23-2-1032	23-2-1060	23-2-1085	23-2-1095	23-2-1118	23-2-1127	23-3-1161	

9. **EXTENSIONS - INVESTIGATIONS**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended granting an *Investigative Extension* to the following 116 cases:

<u>WRITTEN COMPLAINT EXTENSIONS</u>							
22-1-856	22-5-1534	22-7-5	22-8-148	22-9-310	22-10-505	22-10-600	22-12-797
22-2-996	22-5-1564	22-7-15	22-8-150	22-9-316	22-10-523	22-10-602	22-12-798
22-3-1196	22-5-1573	22-7-31	22-8-160	22-9-334	22-10-530	22-10-617	22-12-799
22-3-1197	22-6-1613	22-7-35	22-8-163	22-9-395	22-10-531	22-10-618	22-12-813
22-4-1223	22-6-1626	22-7-49	22-8-175	22-9-401	22-10-533	22-10-621	23-1-818
22-4-1225	22-6-1627	22-7-59	22-8-204	22-9-431	22-10-539	22-11-645	23-1-819
22-4-1276	22-6-1633	22-7-61	22-8-209	22-9-443	22-10-540	22-11-649	23-1-821
22-4-1322	22-6-1647	22-7-82	22-8-211	22-9-444	22-10-549	22-11-664	23-1-823
22-4-1323	22-6-1654	22-7-86	22-8-218	22-9-445	22-10-556	22-11-665	23-1-829
22-4-1348	22-6-1655	22-8-119	22-8-238	22-9-461	22-10-568	22-11-677	23-1-838
22-5-1438	22-6-1667	22-8-123	22-8-242	22-9-465	22-10-571	22-11-709	23-1-839
22-5-1480	22-6-1681	22-8-125	22-8-244	22-10-477	22-10-587	22-12-726	
22-5-1483	22-6-1692	22-8-139	22-8-266	22-10-485	22-10-588	22-12-738	
22-5-1488	22-6-1693	22-8-143	22-8-282	22-10-489	22-10-596	22-12-756	
22-5-1524	22-6-1695	22-8-147	22-8-285	22-10-501	22-10-598	22-12-757	

10. **APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION REPORT**

The Educator Ethics Review Committee recommended to approve a no probable cause determination on 18 cases reflected on the *Applications for Certification Report*.

11. **FINAL DECISIONS BY OPERATION OF LAW**

The Commission reviewed the report, which advised of 14 cases now closed without an appeal for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Ethics Review Committee report as presented by Beth Townsend.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Mark Kauffman – all cases, Derek Easterling – PIDs 23-1-918; 23-1-919; 23-1-920; 23-2-986; 23-2-987; 23-2-988; 23-2-996; 23-2-997; 23-2-1016, PCE 21-11-540; 22-11-721; 22-1-851; 23-1-854; NCO 22-10-520, Dr. Franklin Perry – PCA 23-2-931, Jimmy Atkins PCE 23-1-846; 22-5-1501, Abigail Coggin 19-8-341, Clearance 22-7-89, Jane Rookard PCA 23-2-928, PCE 22-3-1146, Beth Townsend PIDs 23-1-902; 23-2-994; 23-2-1023, PCE 22-12-754

B. Educator Preparation Standing Committee

Committee Chair, Dr. Holley Roberts, presented the report of the Educator Preparation Standing Committee.

1. Clayton State University – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the January 17, 2023, Progress Report, the Committee recommends the removal of the following areas for improvement (AFIs) cited during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review for the Educator Preparation Provider (EPP).
 - Standard 4.1
 - Standard 4.4
 - Standard 5.1
 - Standard 5.2
 - Standard 5.3
 - Standard 5.4

As a result of incremental progress evident in the Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFI in Standard 4.2 remain for the EPP. In addition, the Committee recommends the AFIs in Standard 6.6 remain for the Music Education Program, and the AFIs in Standard 1.1 and Standard 1.2 remain for the Biology Education Program, and the History Education Program.

As a result of unsatisfactory progress evident in the Progress Report, the Committee recommends the AFI in Standard 6.6 remain for the ESOL Endorsement.

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due March 29, 2024, addressing all remaining AFIs. The progress report should include evidence for how grade bands are tracked. The progress report should also include data to indicate that a systematic process exists for assuring completers effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions to impact P-12 instruction. In addition, the progress report should include data from candidates' final portfolios to demonstrate the understanding and application of the InTASC standards.

2. Cobb County School District – The Committee recommends Continuing Approval with Conditions for the EPP, and the following three endorsements reviewed during the Fall 2022 Continuing Approval Review.
 - Gifted In-Field Endorsement

- Teacher Leader Endorsement
- Teacher Coaching and Coaching Endorsement

The Committee recommends the submission of a progress report due March 29, 2024, addressing the unmet standard and AFIs cited during the Fall 2022 Continuing Approval Review.

3. South Georgia State College – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the EPP, as well as the Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary Education (P-5) [Baccalaureate degree] Program, and the Reading Endorsement reviewed during the Spring 2023 Developmental Approval Review.
4. Southwest Georgia RESA – As a result of satisfactory progress indicated in the December 12, 2022, Progress Report, the Committee recommends removal of the AFIs in Standard 5.2 and Standard 5.4 cited during the Fall 2020 Continuing Approval Review.
5. Kennesaw State University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the STEM and Urban Education Endorsements.
6. Augusta University –The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the Urban Education Endorsement.
7. Georgia Southwestern State University – The Committee recommends Developmental Approval for the ESOL Endorsement.

Chair Sirmans called for approval of the Educator Preparation and Certification Committee report as present by Dr. Holley Roberts.

PSC ACTION: Approved

Abstentions: Mark Kauffman

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Our next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13th, at 4 pm. We will meet remotely and the information will be posted on our website under Commission Information. The Educator Ethics Review Committee and Educator Preparation and Certification Committee meeting will meet on Wednesday, April 12th, at 4:00 pm. Chair Sirmans called for the meeting to be adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

PSC ACTION: Approved