



Tab 18

Mineral Area College/Southeast Missouri State University Dispute Resolution Update

Coordinating Board for Higher Education
June 15, 2022

BACKGROUND

Mineral Area College (MAC) requested CBHE approval to offer 46 academic programs at the Cape College Center in Cape Girardeau on February 28, 2022. The programs were listed in detail in the April 19, 2022, CBHE meeting board book.

Department staff posted MAC's proposals for public comment on March 1, 2022, and received a total of 142 responses, 141 in support of the proposals and one against. The comment against was from Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO), and it raised several important issues the commissioner determined should be considered before acting on MAC's academic program approval requests. The commissioner asked the CBHE to initiate a dispute resolution process, as authorized by § 173.125, RSMo, at a special meeting on April 19, 2022. The board accepted the commissioner's recommendation in part. Specifically, the board authorized the commissioner to hire a mediator to resolve the following dispute: *Can the parties come to a mutually beneficial agreement on the delivery of lower division coursework by working with a mediator?*

CURRENT STATUS

The dispute resolution process concluded on June 10, 2022 after three full days of mediation and two weeks of further negotiation. The parties were not able to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

None.