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**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
FOR THE BUREAU FOR PRIVATE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In the Matter of the First Amended Statement
of Issues Against:

RICHFIELD UNIVERSITY

**Renewal of Approval to Operate and Offer
Educational Program for Non-Accredited
Institutions Applicant**

Institution Code: 1936931

Respondent.

Case No. 10014764

OAH No. 2017090279

DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER

[Gov. Code, § 11520]

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On or about May 22, 2017, Joanne Wenzel, in her capacity at that time as the Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, Department of Consumer Affairs, filed First Amended Statement of Issues No. 10014764 against Richfield University before the Director of Consumer Affairs. At this time, First Amended Statement of Issues No. 10014764 is being prosecuted by Dr. Michael Marion, Jr., in his official capacity as the current Chief of the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, Department of Consumer Affairs ("Bureau").

2. On or about May 17, 2013, the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education received an application for Renewal of Approval to Operate an Institution Non-Accredited from Richfield College, with Dr. Michael Rahini as 95% owner and Roya A. Nik as 5% owner (Application

1 #26150). The application was certified under the penalty of perjury as to the truthfulness of all
2 statements, answers, and representations contained therein.

3 3. On or about June 6, 2013, the Bureau granted a request to allow Richfield College to
4 change its name to Richfield University (School Code 1936931).

5 4. On or about July 25, 2013, the Bureau approved a Request for Change of Business
6 Organization to reflect the following changes in ownership for Richfield University: VCampus
7 Inc./Rajan Chopra as 95% owner and Michael Rahani as 5% owner.

8 5. Thereafter, on or about January 15, 2014, the Bureau approved a Non-Substantive
9 Change for Richfield University to reflect the following changes in ownership: Rajan Chopra as
10 100% owner.

11 6. On or about March 4, 2016, the Bureau denied the application of Richfield University
12 (School Code 1936931) ("Respondent") for Renewal of Approval to Operate an Institution Non-
13 Accredited (Application #26150).

14 7. On or about May 3, 2016, Respondent appealed the Bureau's denial of its application
15 and requested a hearing.

16 8. On or about May 24, 2017, an employee of the Department of Justice, served by
17 Certified and First Class Mail a copy of the First Amended Statement of Issues No. 10014764,
18 Statement to Respondent, Notice of Defense, Request for Discovery, Government Code sections
19 11507.5, 11507.6, and 11507.7 to Joanne Mirras Knauss, Respondent's attorney of record at the
20 time, whose address was and is 20700 Ventura Blvd., #348, Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Service
21 was also made to Respondent's address of record with the Bureau, which was and is 7028
22 Owensmouth Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91303, as well as to Rajan Chopra, Respondent's 100%
23 owner, at his address of record for service of process which was and is 1521 Concord Pike, #303,
24 Wilmington, DE 19803. A copy of the First Amended Statement of Issues is attached as exhibit
25 A, and is incorporated herein by reference.

26 9. On or about September 18, 2017, an employee of the Department of Justice served a
27 Notice of Hearing on Respondent by mailing the Notice of Hearing via Certified and First Class

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1 Mail to Joanne Mirras Knauss, Respondent's attorney of record at the time, whose address was
2 and is 20700 Ventura Blvd., #348, Woodland Hills, CA 91364.

3 10. Thereafter, on or about November 28, 2017, an employee of the Department of
4 Justice also served a Notice of Hearing on Respondent by mailing the Notice of Hearing via
5 Certified and First Class Mail to the following: (1) Rajan Chopra, Respondent's 100% owner, at
6 his address of record for service of process which was and is 1521 Concord Pike, #303,
7 Wilmington, DE 19803; (2) Respondent's address of record with the Bureau, which was and is
8 7028 Owensmouth Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91303; and (3) Respondent's previous address of
9 record with the Bureau which was 20855 Ventura Blvd., #16, Woodland Hills, CA 91364.

10 11. Service of the First Amended Statement of Issues and the Notice of Hearing were
11 effective as a matter of law under the provisions of Government Code section 11505, subdivision
12 (c).

13 12. The matter was called for hearing at the date, time and location set forth in the Notice
14 of Hearing. The assigned Administrative Law Judge found that the service of the Notice of
15 Hearing on Respondent was proper. There was no appearance by or on behalf of Respondent. A
16 default was declared and on motion of counsel for Complainant, the matter was remanded to the
17 Bureau under Government Code section 11520.

18 13. Business and Professions Code section 118 states, in pertinent part:

19 (a) The withdrawal of an application for a license after it has been filed with a
20 board in the department shall not, unless the board has consented in writing to such
21 withdrawal, deprive the board of its authority to institute or continue a proceeding
22 against the applicant for the denial of the license upon any ground provided by law or
23 to enter an order denying the license upon any such ground.

24 14. Government Code section 11506(c) states, in pertinent part:

25 (c) The respondent shall be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent
26 files a notice of defense . . . and the notice shall be deemed a specific denial of all
27 parts of the accusation . . . not expressly admitted. Failure to file a notice of defense
28 . . . shall constitute a waiver of respondent's right to a hearing, but the agency in its
discretion may nevertheless grant a hearing.

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1 15. California Government Code section 11520(a) states, in pertinent part:

2 (a) If the respondent either fails to file a notice of defense . . . or to appear at
3 the hearing, the agency may take action based upon the respondent's express
4 admissions or upon other evidence and affidavits may be used as evidence without
5 any notice to respondent

6 16. Pursuant to its authority under Government Code section 11520, the Bureau finds
7 Respondent is in default. The Bureau will take action without further hearing based upon the
8 allegation set forth in the Statement of Issues and Respondent's failure to establish entitlement to
9 issuance of a license.

10 DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

11 1. Based on the foregoing findings of fact, Respondent Richfield University has
12 subjected its application for Renewal of Approval to Operate and Offer Educational Program for
13 Non-Accredited Institutions (Application #26150) to denial.

14 2. Service of Statement of Issues No. 10014764 and related documents was proper and
15 in accordance with the law.

16 3. The agency has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

17 4. The Director of Consumer Affairs is authorized to deny Respondent's application for
18 licensure based upon the following violations alleged in the Statement of Issues:

19 a. Failure to Meet Minimum Operating Standards – Description of Educational
20 Program Fails to Provide Acceptable Course Content [Education Code section 94891,
21 subdivision (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71710, subdivisions
22 (c)(4) and (6)];

23 b. Failure to Meet Minimum Operating Standards – Description of Educational
24 Program Fails to Determine Length of Educational Programs [Education Code section
25 94891, subdivision (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71710,
26 subdivisions (c)(3) and (4)];

27 c. Failure to Meet Minimum Operating Standards – Description of Educational
28 Program Fails to Provide Clear Learning Objectives [Education Code section 94891,

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1 subdivision (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71710, subdivisions
2 (c)(2) and (e), and section 71715];

3 d. Failure to Meet Minimum Operating Standards – Faculty [Education Code
4 sections 94891, subdivision (b) and California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 71720,
5 subdivisions (a)(4)(A) and (B), (a)(1), and (a)(9)];

6 e. Failure to Meet Minimum Operating Standards – Catalog [Education Code
7 sections 94891, subdivision (b) and 94909, subdivision (a)(5)]; and

8 f. Failure to Meet Minimum Operating Standards – Advertising and Other Public
9 Statements [Education Code sections 94891, subdivision (b), 94913, subdivision (a)(2), and
10 74117].


11 ORDER

12 IT IS SO ORDERED that the application of Respondent Richfield University (Application
13 #26150) is hereby denied.

14 Pursuant to Government Code section 11520, subdivision (c), Respondent may serve a
15 written motion requesting that the Decision be vacated and stating the grounds relied on within
16 seven (7) days after service of the Decision on Respondent. The agency in its discretion may
17 vacate the Decision and grant a hearing on a showing of good cause, as defined in the statute.

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19 This Decision shall become effective on JUL 12 2018

20 It is so ORDERED May 20, 2018

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23 RYAN MARCROFT
24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEGAL AFFAIRS
25 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

26 LA2016602028

27 Attachments:

28 Exhibit A: First Amended Statement of Issues No. 10014764

Exhibit B: Office of Administrative Hearings Findings and Declaration of Default;
Order of Remand