**Report of the Meeting**

**National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)**

**July 29 & 30, 2020**



#  /s/ Arthur E. Keiser, Ph.D., Chair

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**DISCLAIMER**

This report summarizes the deliberations of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) at its virtual July 29 & 30, 2020 meeting. The NACIQI is an advisory committee established by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This report represents the views of the NACIQI. The report has not been reviewed for approval by the Department of Education, and therefore, the report’s recommendations do not purport to represent the views of the Department.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NACIQI was most recently authorized by Section 106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. NACIQI’s primary functions include advising the Secretary of Education on the establishment and enforcement of criteria for recognition of accrediting agencies under Subpart 2 of Part H, Title IV, of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), as well as the recognition of specific accrediting agencies or associations or a specific State approval agency. The NACIQI also advises the Secretary on the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV, of the HEA, including the relationship between accreditation of institutions of higher education and the certification and eligibility of such institutions, and state licensing responsibilities with respect to such institutions.

NACIQI met virtually on July 29 & 30, 2020 through the WebEx platform to carry out its responsibilities to advise the senior Department official (SDO) with respect to the recognition of accrediting agencies.

NACIQI reviewed the following types of applications at its July 29 & 30, 2020 meeting:

Three applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies;

Two applications for reorganization and curriculum change by Federal agencies and institutions; and

One review of an agency recognition during the period of recognition.

NACIQI reviews all information submitted by an agency in support of its petition, the staff analysis and report, and third-party comments.

Chairman Arthur Keiser opened the virtual meeting and welcomed the Committee and members of the public.

The Subcommittee on Governance and Political Influence, chaired by Richard F. O’Donnell, submitted its report for the Secretary’s review.

Committee member David A. Eubanks presented on Student Success; consequently, a subcommittee was formed on the topic.

NACIQI members in attendance for all or part of the meeting included Arthur Keiser (Chair), Kathleen Sullivan Alioto, Ronnie L. Booth, Wallace E. Boston, Amanda C. Delekta, Jill Derby, David A. Eubanks, George French, Brian Jones, Paul J. Leblanc, D. Michael Lindsay, Anne D. Neal, Richard F. O’Donnell, Mary Ellen Petrisko, Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., Steven VanAusdle, and Ralph Wolff.

U.S. Department of Education representatives who participated in the meeting included: NACIQI Executive Director and Designated Federal Official George Alan Smith; Accreditation Director Herman Bounds; Office of the General Counsel staff member Donna Mangold; and accreditation staff members Elizabeth Daggett, Nicole S. Harris, Charity Helton, Jass Holt, Valerie Lefor, Reha Mallory, Stephanie McKissic, Karmon Simms-Coates, and Michael Stein.

SUMMARY OF AGENCY-RELATED ACTIONS

The following agencies were acted on under NACIQI’s consent agenda:

**Renewal of Recognition | Accrediting Agencies**

**Missouri State Board of Nursing**

Action for Consideration:

* Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

* Renew the agency’s recognition for four years.
* Vote “Yes”: Unanimous

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* D. Michael Lindsay
* Steven VanAusdle

**Puerto Rico State Agency for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational, Technical Institutions and Programs**

Action for Consideration:

* Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

* Renew the agency’s recognition for four years.
* Vote “Yes”: Unanimous

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Ronnie L. Booth
* Richard F. O’Donnell

The following agencies were acted on using NACIQI’s standard review procedures:

**Review of Agency Recognition During the Period of Recognition | Accrediting Agency**

**Higher Learning Commission**

Action for Consideration:

* Continue the agency’s recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with 34 C.F.R. §§ 602.18(c), 34 C.F.R. 602.25(a), 602.25(d), 602.25(e), and 602.25(f), and to submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency’s compliance.
* Limit HLC’s current recognition such that it may not accredit additional institutions of higher education that do not currently hold accreditation or preaccreditation status with the agency for the duration of the 12 month period pending a compliance determination by the (SDO).
	+ Recommend that the compliance report include details on HLC’s efforts to mitigate the negative effects of HLC’s procedurally erroneous decision to withdraw accreditation from the two institutions [Illinois Institute of Art and Art Institute of Colorado] set forth above on students, especially with regard to the status of academic credits earned at the Institutions during calendar year 2018.

Recommendation:

* Reject the staff recommendation and recommend that the SDO not revise or curtail the accrediting agency's scope of recognition.
* Vote: 9 “Yes”; 2 “No”; and 1 “Abstention”

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Paul J. Leblanc
* Mary Ellen Petrisko

Representatives of the Agency:

* Barbara Gellman-Danley, President, Higher Learning Commission
* Joanne Burrows, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Higher Learning Commission
* Anthea Sweeney, Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning Commission
* Marla Morgen, Associate Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Higher Learning Commission
* David Wissmann, Former Trustee, Higher Learning Commission
* Julie Miceli, Partner, Husch Blackwell

Third Party Comment:

* David Halperin, Attorney and Counselor
* Robert J. Infusino, Former Student, Illinois Institute of Art
* Amy Laitinen, Director of Higher Education, New America
* Clare McCann, Deputy Director for Federal Higher Education Policy, New America
* Ben Miller, Vice-President, Postsecondary Education, Center for American Progress
* Bob Shireman, Director of Higher Education Excellence and Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation
* Jamienne S. Studley, President & CEO, WASC Senior College and University Commission
* Rosalind Fuse-Hall: Surrogate for Belle Wheelan, President & CEO, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
* Walter Ochinko, Veterans Education Success

**Renewal of Recognition | Accrediting Agency**

**New York State Board of Regents, State Education Department, Office of the Professions**

Action for Consideration:

* Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

* Continue the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized state approval agency for nurse education at this time, and require the agency to come into compliance within 12 months with the criteria listed below, and submit a compliance report due 30 days thereafter that demonstrates the agency's compliance.
	+ [3g.]--The state must demonstrate that its policy requires initial and periodic on-site visits to occur to all accredited schools of nursing, as required by this section of the nurse criteria. The state must demonstrate that it conducts periodic on-site reviews to all accredited schools of nursing within the accreditation period required for each registered program.
* Vote “Yes”: Unanimous

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Wallace E. Boston
* Anne D. Neal

Representatives of the Agency:

* Sarah Benson, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Professions
* Mei Zhou, Director, Professional Education
* Renee Gecsedi, Associate in Nursing Education
* Jeanne-Marie Havener, Associate in Nursing Education

**Reorganization and Curriculum Change by Federal Agencies and Institutions | Accrediting Agencies**

**U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC)**

Action for Consideration:

* Substantive Change (Curriculum Change)

Recommendation:

* Recommend approval of the substantive change request for CGSC and retroactively grant the status so that the existing class of students may be included in the formal degree granting authorization.
* Votes “Yes”: Unanimous

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* Amanda C. Delekta
* Arthur Keiser

Representative of the Agency:

* Jim Martin, Dean of Academics, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

**National Intelligence University**

Action for Consideration:

* Substantive Change from Department of Defense to Director of National Intelligence

Recommendation:

* Recommend approval of the realignment substantive change request.
* Vote “Yes”: Unanimous

NACIQI Primary Readers:

* David A. Eubanks
* Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.

Representatives of the Agency:

* J. Scott Cameron, President, National Intelligence University
* John Gannon, Chair, Board of Visitors, National Intelligence University
* Terrence Markin, Provost, National Intelligence University
* David Smith, Assistant Provost, National Intelligence University

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE**

The Subcommittee on Governance, chaired by Richard F. O’Donnell, submitted its report for the Secretary’s review.

**PRESENTATION ON STUDENT SUCCESS**

Committee member David A. Eubanks presented on Student Success; consequently, a subcommittee was formed on the topic.