

Report of the Meeting

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)

March 3-5, 2021



_____/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 March 3-5, 2021 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 March 3-5, 2021 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 March 3-5, 2021 meeting:

- Eight (8) applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies; and
- One (1) review of an agency during the period of recognition, including a monitoring report; and for a compliance report.

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

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

Nathan Mitchell, Office of the General Counsel (Ethics Division), conducted an open session annual ethics training on March 3, 2021 with committee members who were present.

The Subcommittee on Student Success, chaired by David A. Eubanks, submitted an update of its work to date.

The committee approved by consensus to have ED staff restore the accreditation dashboard and explore and assess what documents can be made available to the public as agencies upload them in E-Recognition.

NACIQI members in attendance for all or part of the meeting included Arthur E. Keiser (Chair), Kathleen Sullivan Alioto, Roslyn Clark Artis, Jennifer Blum, Ronnie L. Booth, Wallace E. Boston, Jill Derby, David A. Eubanks, Paul J. Leblanc, D. Michael Lindsay, Robert Mayes, Anne D. Neal, Richard F. O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Petrisko, Claude O. Pressnell, Jr. (Co-Chair), Robert Shireman, and Steven VanAusdle.

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 members Lauren Friedrich, Donna Mangold, Nathan Mitchell, and Angela Sierra; accreditation staff members Elizabeth Daggett, Nicole S. Harris, Charity Helton, Jass Holt, Reha Mallory, Stephanie McKissic, Karmon Simms-Coates, and Michael Stein; and PPI front office staff member, Valerie Lefor.

SUMMARY OF AGENCY-RELATED ACTIONS

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

Renewal of Recognition | Accrediting Agencies

American Board of Funeral Services Education, Committee on Accreditation (ABFSE)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 13; No 1

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Anne D. Neal
- Steven Van Ausdle

Representatives of the Agency:

- Robert C. Smith III, Executive Director, ABFSE
- Mark Evely, Chairperson, ABFSE
- Leili, McMurrough, Vice Chairperson, ABFSE

Association of Institutions of Jewish Studies (AIJS)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 11 (Unanimous)

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Kathleen Sullivan Alioto
- Richard F. O'Donnell

Representatives of the Agency:

- Rabbi Doniel Ginsberg, President, AIJS
- Dr. Chaim Cohen, Chair, Executive Accreditation Council, AIJS
- Mrs. Naomi Landesman, Accreditation Liaison, AIJS
- Dr. Dina Gongola, Accreditation Liaison, AIJS

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (ASHA)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 13 (Unanimous)

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Richard F. O'Donnell
- Steven Van Ausdle

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Jaynee Handelsman, 2021 Chair, ASHA
- Ms. Nancy Alarcon, 2020 Chair, ASHA
- Ms. Kimberlee Moore, Director of Accreditation, ASHA
- Ms. Tess Kirsch, Associate Director of Accreditation for Policy & Education, ASHA

Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Recommend that the COMTA recognition be continued to permit the agency an opportunity to bring itself into compliance with the criteria cited in the staff report within a 12-month period and that it submit for review within 30 days thereafter, a compliance report demonstrating compliance with the cited criteria and their effective application. Such continuation shall be effective until the Department reaches a final decision. Further, recommend that the Senior Department Official issue COMTA submit a monitoring report identifying the issues from the staff analysis.
- Vote: Yes 15 (Unanimous)

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Ronnie L. Booth
- Paul J. LeBlanc

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dawn Hogue, Executive Director, COMTA
- Clifford Korn, Board Representative, COMTA

Council on Naturopathic Medical Examination (CNME)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 13; Abstention 1

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Jill Derby
- David A. Eubanks

Representatives of the Agency:

- Jamey Wallace, ND, CNME Board President
- Daniel Seitz, JD, EdD, CNME Executive Director

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 13 (Unanimous)

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Kathleen Sullivan Alioto
- D. Michael Lindsay

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Cassaundra Jah, Board President, MEAC
- Katie Krebs, Board President Elect, MEAC
- Kristi Ridd-Young, Board Vice President for Outreach and Development, MEAC
- Beatrix Packmohr, Executive Director, MEAC
- Amari Fauna, Director of Accreditation, MEAC

Montessori Accreditation Council on Teacher Education (MACTE)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 14 (Unanimous)

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Wallace E. Boston
- Anne D. Neal

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Rebecca Pelton, President, MACTE
- Dr. Carolyn Pinkerton, Director of Communications and State Relations, MACTE
- Aimee Fagan, Director of Accreditation, MACTE
- Stacy Seapy, Director of Finance and Technology, MACTE
- Dr. Joe Lubig, Board Treasurer, MACTE
- Karen Simon, Board President, MACTE

National Accrediting Commission of Career Arts and Sciences, Inc. (NACCAS)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: Yes 8; No 2

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Wallace E. Boston
- Jill Derby

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Tony Mirando, Executive Director, NACCAS
- Darin M. Wallace Esq., Director of Government Relations and Legal, NACCAS
- Michael D. Bouman, Former Chairman, NACCAS (Member: NACCAS Re-Recognition Committee)
- Louis Starita, Former Treasurer, NACCAS (Member: NACCAS Re-Recognition Committee)
- Therese Vogel, Former Chairwoman, NACCAS (Member: NACCAS Re-Recognition Committee)

Third Party Commenter:

- Fred Jones, Professional Beauty Federation of California

Review of Agency Compliance Report | Accrediting Agency

The following agency was acted on using a revision of NACIQI's standard review proceduresⁱ:

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

Action for Consideration:

Compliance Report

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criteria cited in the Final Staff Report on the **Compliance Report**.

Yes: 11

No: 1

Recusal: 3

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

The following agency was acted on using a revision of NACIQI's standard review proceduresⁱⁱ:

Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS)

Action for Consideration:

Inquiries Under 34 CFR 602.33: Review in Response to ACICS Monitoring Report

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criterion **602.15(a)(1)** administrative and fiscal capacity on the **Monitoring Report**.

MOTION FAILED

Yes: 6

No: 7

Recusal: 3

Action for Consideration:

Inquiries Under 34 CFR 602.33: Review in Response to ACICS Monitoring Report

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criterion cited in the **602.19(b)** monitoring on the **Monitoring Report**.

Yes: 9

No: 2

Recusal: 3

Action for Consideration

Inquiries Under 34 CFR 602.33: Review Initiated by Inquiry Letter Dated June 19, 2019 (**Capacity Inquiry**)

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criterion **602.15(a)(1)** (administrative and fiscal capacity) cited in the Final Staff Report on the **Capacity Inquiry**.

Yes: 8
No: 4
Recusal: 3

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criterion **602.16(c)** cited in the Final Staff Report on the **Capacity Inquiry**.

Yes: 12
No: None
Recusal: 3

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criterion **602.17(c)** cited in the Final Staff Report on the **Capacity Inquiry**.

Yes: 11
No: 1
Recusal: 3

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criterion **602.17(e)** cited in the Final Staff Report on the **Capacity Inquiry**.

Yes: 11
No: 1
Recusal: 3

Action for Consideration:

Inquiries Under 34 CFR 602.33: Review Initiated by Inquiry Letter Dated February 24, 2020

Recommendation: Accept the staff's recommendation that ACICS be found out of compliance with the criteria cited in the Final Staff Report on the **RNU Inquiry**.

Yes: 12
No: None
Recusal: 3

Action for Consideration:

Overall Recognition

Recommendation: Recommend that ACICS's **recognition be terminated** on the grounds that ACICS does not comply with the Criteria for Recognition identified in the Compliance Report, 602.19(b) Monitoring, Capacity; and RNU and there is insufficient evidence that the agency can reasonably be expected to bring itself into compliance in a timely manner.

Yes: 11
No: 1
Recusal: 3

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Mary Ellen Petrisko
- Claude O. Pressnell, Jr.

Representatives of the Agency:

- Ms. Michelle Edwards, President and CEO, ACICS
- Ms. Karly Zeigler, Director of Accreditation, ACICS
- Dr. Rafael Castilla, Chair of the Board, ACICS
- Dr. Billy Ferrell, Chair-Elect of the Board, ACICS

Third Party Commenters:

- Ms. Alejandra Acosta, New America Education Policy Program
- Ms. Ella Azoulay, Generation Progress
- Mr. Bernard A. Eskandari, California Attorney General's Office
- Ms. Antoinette Flores, Center for American Progress
- Mr. David Halperin, Attorney
- Mr. Justin Hauschild, Student Veterans of America
- Mr. James Haynes, Veterans Education Success
- Mr. Michael Itzkowitz, Third Way
- Mr. Christopher J. Madaio, Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division
- Ms. Clare McCann, New America Education Policy Program
- Dr. Darlene Ann Minore, Minore Educational Strategies
- Ms. Angela Perry, Esq., The Institute for College Access & Success

ETHICS TRAINING

Nathan Mitchell, Office of the General Counsel (Ethics Division), conducted an open session annual ethics training on March 3, 2021 with committee members who were present.

STUDENT SUCCESS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

The Subcommittee on Student Success, chaired by David A. Eubanks, submitted an update of its work to date.

Third Party Commenter:

- Bernard Fryshman, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director, Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Committee member Robert Shireman requested restoration of the accreditation dashboard and that ED staff explore and assess what documents can be made available to the public as agencies upload them in E-Recognition. The suggestions were approved by committee consensus.

ⁱ Please note that, because a compliance report, a monitoring report, and two Section 602.33 reviews were being considered by NACIQI, it was anticipated that the standard review procedures would be adjusted to accommodate the individual reviews, including separate motions and votes on the agency's compliance with the criteria identified in each review and a final motion and vote on a recognition recommendation.