

Report of the Meeting

National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)

July 19-21, 2022



_____/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 19-21, 2022 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 July 19-21, 2022 through the Zoom 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 19-21, 2022 meeting:

- Eight applications for renewal of recognition from accrediting agencies; and
- One compliance report.

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

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

Under Secretary James Kvaal addressed the Committee and other attendees, emphasizing the Administration's (1) commitment to quality assurance and quality improvement and NACIQI's role as an essential partner for those efforts; (2) release of proposed regulations for public comment on a set of issues facing student loan borrowers and commitment to making sure student loan programs work: fixing long-standing problems in the program and ensuring that students and borrowers get the benefits they are entitled to; (3) appreciation of NACIQI's work on enhancing the accreditor dashboards and their usage; (4) reaction to a new state law mandating public institutions switch accrediting agencies before their next accreditation cycle, including three new guidance documents issued by the Department to help inform institutions and accrediting agencies about their responsibilities when institutions plan to switch accreditors.

Wallace E. Boston, Chairperson of the Accreditor Dashboard Subcommittee, presented an oral progress report and suggested that the subcommittee will prepare a white paper for the Winter 2023 meeting for the full committee's review.

Committee members participated in a general policy discussion. Topics raised during the policy discussion included the (1) Department's recent guidance to institutional accrediting agencies about "voluntary membership"; (2) expressions of appreciation for the improvements that the Department has made regarding the transparency of the review process for agencies (including petitions and supporting documents); and (3) the importance of meeting in-person rather than virtually for future meetings.

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, Michael Lindsay, Molly Hall-Martin, Robert Mayes, Mary Ellen Petrisko, Claude O. Pressnell, Jr., Robert Shireman, Zakiya Smith Ellis, 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 Donna Mangold, Soreen Lagaard, and Angela Sierra; and accreditation staff members Laco (LG) Corder, Elizabeth Daggett, Paul Florek, Nicole S. Harris, Charity Helton, Stephanie McKissic, Karmon Simms-Coates, Michael Stein, and Adrienne Walker.

SUMMARY OF AGENCY-RELATED ACTIONS

The following agencies were acted on—in the order they are listed—using NACIQI’s standard review procedures:

Compliance Report | Accrediting Agency

New York State Board of Regents, State Education Department, Office of the Professions, Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, Practical Nursing (NYBRVE)

Action for Consideration:

- Compliance Report

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency’s recognition for 18 months.
- Vote: 14 “Yes”; 0 “No”; 0 “Abstention”; 0 “Recusal”; 2 “Absent”

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Kathleen Alioto
- Steven VanAusdle

Representatives of the Agency:

- Jeanne-Marie Havener, Associate in Nursing Education, NYBRVE
- Casey Schenk, Associate in Nursing Education, NYBRVE

Renewal of Recognition | Accrediting Agency

Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency’s recognition for 5 years.
- Vote: 11 “Yes”; 1 “No”; 0 “Abstention”; 2 “Recusal”; 2 “Absent”

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Roslyn Clark Artis
- David Eubanks

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Leah Matthews, Executive Director, DEAC
- Dr. Cheryl Hayek, Chair, DEAC
- Dr. Wanda Nitsch, Vice Chair, DEAC
- Ms. Julie Miceli, Counsel

American Occupational Therapy Association, Accrediting Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, subject to the submission of a compliance report due in 12 months and a review and decision on the compliance report; and approve the expansion of scope. In the event that recognition is continued following a decision on the compliance report, the period of recognition will not exceed 5 years from the date the decision on the renewal of accreditation is issued by the senior Department official.
- Vote: 13 "Yes"; 0 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 1 "Recusal"; 2 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Jill Derby
- Robert Mayes

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Teresa Brining, Director of Accreditation, ACOTE
- Dr. Lynn Kilburg, Chairperson, ACOTE

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., Accreditation Commission (ACPEI)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, subject to the submission of a compliance report due in 12 months and a review and decision on the compliance report. In the event that recognition is continued following a decision on the compliance report, the period of recognition will not exceed 5 years from the date the decision on the renewal of accreditation is issued by the Senior Department Official. This relates to the remaining compliance issues identified in the final staff report. The agency is in substantial compliance with [602.25(f)]-Department staff recommends the Senior Department Official (SDO) require a monitoring report within 12 months of an SDO decision, if an appeals panel is assembled, to be reviewed by Department staff demonstrating the agency's adherence to the revised appeal policy. The agency is in substantial compliance with [602.25(g)]-Department staff recommends the Senior Department Official (SDO) require a monitoring report within 12 months of an SDO decision, if an appeals panel is assembled, to be reviewed by Department staff demonstrating the agency's adherence to the revised appeal policy. Department staff would initiate a mid-cycle review in accordance with 34 CFR § 602.33 if the monitoring reports did not demonstrate the agency's compliance with 602.25(f) and 602.25(g).
- Vote: 15 "Yes"; 0 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 0 "Recusal"; 1 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Jennifer Blum
- Claude Pressnell

Representatives of the Agency:

- Rev. Dr. Trace Haythorn, ACPE CEO/Executive Director
- Dr. Marc Medwed, ACPE Associate Executive Director
- Rev. Dr. Randy Hall, Chair, ACPE Accreditation Commission
- Rev. Katy Wilcox, Chair-Elect, ACPE Accreditation Commission

Association for Biblical Higher Education, Commission on Accreditation (ABHE)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years with the inclusion of an expansion of scope for offerings via direct assessment within the agency's scope of recognition.
- Vote: 11 "Yes"; 4 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 0 "Recusal"; 1 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Molly Hall-Martin
- Robert Mayes

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Lisa Beatty, Executive Director, ABHE Commission on Accreditation
- Dr. Kevin Hester, Chair, ABHE Commission on Accreditation
- Dr. Shane Wood, Associate Director, ABHE Commission on Accreditation
- Dr. Michael Jackson, Associate Director/Substantive Change Officer, ABHE Commission on Accreditation

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for 5 years.
- Vote: 15 "Yes"; 0 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 0 "Recusal"; 1 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Jill Derby
- Robert Shireman

Representatives of the Agency:

- Janet P. Engle, PharmD, PhD (Hon), FAPhA, FCCP, FNAP, Executive Director, ACPE
- J. Gregory Boyer, RPh, PhD, Associate Executive Director and Director of Professional Degree Program Accreditation, ACPE
- Dawn Zarembski, PharmD, BCPS, Assistant Director, Accreditation, ACPE
- Reza Karimi, RPh, PhD, President, ACPE, Dean and Professor at Pacific University School of Pharmacy

Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools (MSA-CSS)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition as a nationally recognized accrediting agency at this time, subject to the submission of a compliance report due in 12 months and a review and decision on the compliance report. In the event that recognition is continued following a decision on the compliance report, the period of recognition will not exceed 5 years from the date the decision on the renewal of accreditation is issued by the Senior Department Official.
- Vote: 13 "Yes"; 0 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 0 "Recusal"; 3 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Kathleen Alioto
- Claude Pressnell

Representatives of the Agency:

- Mr. Christian Talbot, President, MSA-CSS
- Dr. Glen Mort, Vice President, MSA-CSS
- Dr. James Kraft, Chair, MSA-CSS
- Mr. Dan Rufo, Associate Vice President, Accreditation
- Dr. Lorna Fairness, Associate Vice President, Accreditation
- Ms. Audra Chin, Director of Policy & Operations

American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation (ADA-CODA)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
- Vote: 14 "Yes"; 0 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 0 "Recusal"; 2 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Jennifer Blum
- Robert Shireman

Representatives of the Agency

- Dr. Sanjay Mallya, Vice Chairman, CODA
- Dr. Sherin Tookes, Director, CODA
- Ms. Cathryn Albrecht, Senior Associate General Counsel, CODA

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

Action for Consideration:

- Renewal of Recognition

Recommendation:

- Renew the agency's recognition for 5 years, subject to the compliance report and monitoring report(s) as recommended in the staff report. See attached spreadsheet.
- Vote: 9 "Yes"; 0 "No"; 0 "Abstention"; 5 "Recusals"; 2 "Absent"

NACIQI Primary Readers:

- Wallace Boston
- Mary Ellen Petrisko

Representatives of the Agency:

- Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President, SACSCOC
- Dr. Rebecca Maloney, Chair, CASCOC Board of Trustees
- Ms. Rosalind Fuse-Hall, Director, SACSCOC
- Dr. Alexi Matveev, Director, SACSCOC

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Under Secretary James Kvaal addressed the Committee and other attendees, emphasizing the Administration's (1) commitment to quality assurance and quality improvement and NACIQI's role as an essential partner for those efforts; (2) release of proposed regulations for public comment on a set of issues facing student loan borrowers and commitment to making sure student loan programs work: fixing long-standing problems in the program and ensuring that students and borrowers get the benefits they are entitled to; (3) appreciation of NACIQI's work on enhancing the accreditor dashboards and their usage; (4) reaction to a new state law mandating public institutions switch accrediting agencies before their next accreditation cycle, including three new guidance documents issued by the Department to help inform institutions and accrediting agencies about their responsibilities when institutions plan to switch accreditors.

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