

APPENDIX M – LIST OF SPECIFIC ACTION STEPS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish some kind of “ultimate court of appeal” in which accreditation success and failure can be determined. (“Court” may be the wrong image, but some higher level of authority.)
2. Require accrediting agencies to specify particular mechanisms or measurements that institutions must utilize to demonstrate level of student learning outcomes.
3. What is the role of NACIQI? Frame this up first.
4. Require that institutions must supply specific information on various output measures found in readily found places.
5. Build a bridge between data and transparency to provide a framework of success indicators.
6. Decouple regional accreditation from geographic scope.
7. Regulate for-profit companies providing education (or schools owned by corporations) appropriately to their corporate status (Kevin Carey’s idea) as to financial, consumer info, governance, etc., issues by Government or another mandated reviewer.
8. Expedited alternative for reaccreditation.
9. Leed-certified peer reviewers.
10. Seek clarification regarding the clear distinctions between Title IV eligibility and accreditation.
11. The importance of diversity.
12. Decouple Federal financial aid from accreditation.
13. Make accreditation a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for institutional access to Federal financial aid. Base final determination on a fiscal analysis of default rates, etc., by ED. Allow for “intermediate” sanctions.
14. The Committee should not recommend a set of common standards by which accreditors measure student learning, as suggested as a question in the February Policy Forum memorandum. This approach would compromise the important diversity among educational institutions – a great strength of the American system.