



January 31, 2007

*Re: Accrediting Commission Report
December 2006 Meeting
(via email distribution)*

Dear ACCET and Other Colleagues:

This letter and the accompanying enclosures are presented as an update on the actions undertaken by the ACCET Accrediting Commission at the December meeting. A summary of all final actions, referenced by institution, a summary of statistics for all actions relative to the various classifications of review, and the policy/documentation revisions, previously posted and referenced herein, can be viewed and/or downloaded from the ACCET website (www.accet.org). This report is also posted at the website under Commission Report.

The following policy synopsis is further offered for your reference relative to the Commission's call-for-comment, which is linked from the main page under News Flash. Upon review of this call-for-comment solicitation at the April 2007 meeting, the Commission will initiate appropriate action with an advisory to that effect following the meeting.

Document 23 – Admissions Credentials / Ability-to-Benefit

The normal (five year) review process resulted in the proposed addition of guidance on broader admissions issues to be incorporated into this policy, which previously was focused exclusively on ATB.

Document 26.4 – Change of Location Notification

The normal (five year) review process resulted in minor changes adapted to current interpretation of operational issues by the Commission, found in the opening statement and item 14.

Document 28.1 – Completion and Placement Statistics

The normal (five year) review process, which was extended as a consequence of previous reviews, resulted in a number of corrections and/or clarifications, e.g. definition under Enrollee Transfers and simplification of the description under Program/Course Title; computations under items 5 through 11; and Document 28-

compatible revision under Signature to add the previously revised requirement for internal quarterly updates to the Document 28.1 statistical data page.

Document 32 – Closure / Teachout Policy

The normal (five year) review process resulted in various revisions to this policy document, which brings it current with the Commission's experience with implementing policy in this critical area. Specific revisions are found under Teach-out (internal), items 1, 2, 7, and 8; and the introductory paragraph under Teach-out (external).

Document 35 – Policy on Attendance Requirements

The normal (five year) review process, which was extended as a consequence of previous reviews and call-for-comment, resulted in changes to the existing document, specifically items 4, 5, and 6, which are responsive to findings in the course of on-site team evaluations, for which additional guidance is required.

Document 3.MT – Massage Therapy

At the ACCET Annual Conference in October, a task force was convened to analyze and develop field specific criteria for Massage Therapy programs. This endeavor parallels previous efforts for ESL, IDL, and OAD, wherein an overlay template to ACCET Document 3.1, the guidelines for preparing an eASER, serve to elicit a more relevant and valid self-evaluation of the institution.

Further, the Commission approved minor revisions to two documents as follows:

- **Document 12 Attachment – ACCET Reportable Events**

To reflect current staff assignments.

- **Document 29 – Catalog Guidelines and Checklist**

Item 20 was revised to reflect a document reference number change.

As a closing note on pertinent issues past, present, and future, the following is offered for your consideration and reference:

- The 2006 Annual Conference in Miami Beach, Florida was a great success, with an 18% increase in total registrations over 2005, and well-attended sessions conducted by highly praised keynote speakers and seminar presenters. The 2007 conference is scheduled for November 7-9 at the Hyatt Regency, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, and our longstanding Conference Chair, Sandy Lockwood, is giving it rave reviews for the beautiful location and facilities, and very reasonable rates. It is a great opportunity to both network with colleagues and expand your idea bank.

- The Accrediting Commission has appointed two new Commissioners. The public member position vacated by Jane Stockdale, after serving two terms, was filled with the appointment of Howard Steed, who has had extensive experience in proprietary school operations and is currently the Deputy Director, Department of Defense, Center for Education and Research in Patient Safety. The institutional member position vacated by Del Cockrell, after serving one term, was filled with a one-year appointment of Paul Viboch, who has had extensive experience as a senior level manager, now owner, of a proprietary institution, Career Blazers Learning Center in New York.
- At a U.S. Department of Education Accreditation Forum on November 29th, to which ACCET was invited as a participant, the department sought to solicit feedback on some of the accreditation-related issues addressed in the report from the Secretary's Futures Commission titled: "A Test of Leadership-Charting the Future of Higher Education," a copy of which can be found at www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/hiedfuture/reports/final-report.pdf. That report, the forum, and a recent CHEA conference presentation we participated in relative to the "transformational effects" on agencies and the institutions they accredit, as a result of embracing an outcomes-based model of assessing student learning and institutional effectiveness, are all pointing toward increased accountability measures. Such measures as completion and placement results have been a centerpiece of ACCET accreditation since the early 90s. The early and ongoing support of the ACCET membership on such issues is a credit to you, a benefit to your students, and a model for others to consider.
- ACCET's recognition by the U.S. Department of Education, last reaffirmed before the National Advisory Committee for Institutional Quality and Integrity in December 2002, is up for renewal at their December 2007 meeting. The recognition process is analogous to that of accreditation and you are duly entitled to the guiltless pleasure of knowing we must work and worry here, just as you do, to demonstrate we meet the standards. We shall do our best.

This concludes the report on the Commission meeting and supplemental update. Thank you for your daily efforts on behalf of those 650,000 plus students served by ACCET accredited institutions last year and for your ongoing commitment to this partnership for quality. Best regards.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Williams
Executive Director