

Report of the Meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity

November 8, 2010



/s/

Cameron C. Staples, Chair

DISCLAIMER

This report was written as a part of the activities of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), an independent advisory committee established by statute. The NACIQI is subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the regulations implementing that statute. 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

The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI or the Committee), was established by Section 114 of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 and, most recently, Section 106 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). Chief among its statutory functions is the Committee's responsibility to advise the Secretary of Education, or his designee, the Senior Department Official (the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education), regarding the recognition of specific accrediting agencies or associations, or specific State approval agencies, as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education and training offered by the postsecondary educational institutions and programs they accredit. Another function of the NACIQI is to advise the Secretary on the establishment and enforcement of the Criteria for Recognition of accrediting agencies or associations under Subpart 2, Part H, Title IV, of the HEA. It also provides advice to the Secretary regarding policy affecting both recognition of accrediting and State approval agencies and institutional eligibility for participation in programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. The NACIQI is required by law to meet at least twice a year.

The HEOA made changes to section 496 of the HEA "Recognition of Accrediting Agency or Association" and suspended the activities of the NACIQI upon enactment on August 14, 2008. It also changed the composition of the Committee by increasing the membership from 15 to 18 and shifting appointment authority that had been vested solely in the Secretary to the Secretary, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, each of whom may appoint six members. Also, rather than having the Secretary appoint the Chair, the HEOA required the members to elect a Chair. The purpose of the teleconference was to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Committee in accordance with the HEA, as amended.

Members that attended the November 8, 2010 teleconference included: Cameron Staples (elected Chairperson); Arthur Rothkopf (elected Vice-Chairperson); Dr. Benjamin Allen; Dr. Bruce Cole; Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan; Dr. Arthur Keiser; Dan Klaich; Anne Neal; Dr. William Pepicello; Dr. Susan Phillips; Jamiene Studley; Dr. Larry Vanderhoef; and Dr. Federico Zaragoza. In the absence of a Chair and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Melissa Lewis, the Executive Director and Designated Federal Official for the NACIQI, chaired the meeting.

SUMMARY of the NOVEMBER 8, 2010 NACIQI TELECONFERENCE MEETING

The NACIQI teleconference was held on November 8, 2010, from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. The following events occurred during the meeting:

- Ms. Lewis provided that the purpose of the teleconference was to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson;
- Ms. Lewis conducted the roll call of the committee members and established that since thirteen members were in attendance, a quorum was present;
- Ms. Lewis conducted a roll call of those members of the public that had registered in advance to attend the teleconference and established that there were 25 attending. She also established that other than herself, there were five Department staff members attending the teleconference;
- Ms. Lewis asked Ms. Kay Gilcher, Director of the Accreditation Division, to introduce her staff and afterwards thanked the Accreditation Division and Kay Gilcher for all the hard work on the ongoing review of accrediting agencies during the two year suspension of the NACIQI committee;
- Ms. Lewis reviewed the statutory authority and functions of the committee since the Committee had not met for over two years;
- Ms. Lewis then introduced each committee member and provided a short summary of their career highlights.
- Ms. Lewis reviewed the Chair's responsibilities, which includes:
 1. To preside at NACIQI meetings and to certify the accuracy of each report of the meeting;
 2. To advise the public at the beginning of each meeting about the Committee's role, the recognition process, and the guidelines concerning public participation;
 3. To establish the agenda and coordinated it with the NACIQI designated official, per the HEA, as amended, and the FACA;
 4. To maintain a neutral position on a issue unless the membership vote is tied or when the Chair's expertise is required regarding an issue;
 5. To facilitate the discussion and maintain the focus needed relevant to accomplish the agenda;
 6. To determine when comments are not germane to the criteria
 7. To determine when it's time to end the Committee's deliberations;
 8. To determine when a topic should be assigned to a sub group for further consideration or when discussions should be tabled until the next meeting; and
 9. To create a tone of respectfulness and civility in the conduct of the committee's work and provide responses to inquiries from the press on behalf of the committee.
- Ms. Lewis conducted the election of the Chair.
 - Dr. Larry Vanderhoef nominated Cameron Staples.
 - Dr. Arthur Keiser seconded the motion.
 - There were no other nominations for Chair presented.

- The vote for Mr. Staples was unanimous and Mr. Staples accepted his election as Chair.
- Ms. Lewis conducted the election of the Vice Chair.
 - Dr. Susan Phillips nominated Arthur Rothkopf.
 - Dr. Bruce Cole seconded the motion.
 - There were no other nominations for Chair presented.
 - The vote for Mr. Rothkopf was unanimous and Mr. Rothkopf accepted his election as Vice-Chair.
- Chairperson Staples commented that the proposed NACIQI charter modifications were approved and it now permits the creation of subcommittees.
- Ms. Lewis announced that the December 1-3, 2010 NACIQI meeting would occur at 1990 K Street, NW, Washington, DC, in the Eighth Floor Conference Center. If members of the public wish to make oral comments at the December 1-3, 2011 NACIQI meeting, they should follow the instructions in the Federal Register notice that will be published on November 9, 2010.
- The meeting then adjourned.