

(143)

Macias, Wendy

From: Macias, Wendy
sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:11 PM
To: negreg09
Subject: FW: Negotiated Rule Making
Attachments: Written Comments for Public Hearing on June 22.docx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2009 2:10 PM
To: Macias, Wendy
Subject: Negotiated Rule Making

Wendy:

Thank you for returning my call earlier today, and please accept the attached as a suggested topic for further review by the Department of Education. I will bring a hard copy to the Forum tomorrow morning.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
Associate Vice President for Regulatory and Governmental Relations

American Public University System
[REDACTED]

June 22, 2009

Ms. Wendy Macias
U.S. Dept. of Education
1990 K St., NW, Rm. 8017
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ms. Macias:

Please accept these comments in response to the Department's call for additional topics for consideration by the negotiated rulemaking committees being established by the Office of Postsecondary Education. I would suggest that the following issue warrants thoughtful consideration, either by the negotiated rulemaking committee that will focus on measures of integrity in Title IV, HEA programs, or by an additional committee:

The Department of Education has an opportunity to assist colleges and universities that offer programs via distance education, and the various state regulatory agencies charged with licensing, certifying, approving, or otherwise ensuring the integrity of those institutions. More specifically, there is a genuine need for a regulatory template and an associated common data set that together will yield an effective and cost-effective method of accommodating the consumer protection objectives of state regulatory agencies, while also helping to mitigate the potentially overwhelming regulatory burden borne by on-line institutions - public and private, for-profit and not-for-profit. The Department's current role in recognizing the regional accrediting agencies and its relationship with CHEA represents a strong precedent in this regard. Given the increasingly understaffed nature of many state higher education boards and commissions, and the often outdated legislation and administrative rules with which those agencies must operate, DoE guidance and leadership would be most helpful in adding an appropriate degree of coherence to the currently disjointed state regulatory environment.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]
Associate Vice President for Regulatory and Governmental Relations
American Public University System