CHEA Board of Directors

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors elected its 2002-2003 officers at its April 2002 meeting. They are:

Chair: Arthur J. Rothkopf, President, Lafayette College (PA)
Vice Chair: Malcolm Gillis, President, William Marsh Rice University (TX)
Secretary: Eleanor Baum, Dean, Engineering School, The Cooper Union (NY)
Treasurer: Richard P. Traina, Trustee, George I. Alden Trust (MA)

New board members elected at the April 2002 meeting are
Gerald G. Garbacz, managing director, G3 LLC, and N. Victor Goodman, partner, Benesch, Friedlander, Copian and Aronoff, LLP. Current board members Malcolm Gillis and Vernon Crawley, president, Moraine Valley Community College (IL), were elected to a second term. Kenneth Baker, president and CEO, Altarum, was elected to complete an unexpired term.

Federal Policy Update

As of this date, it appears likely that reauthorization of the Higher Education Act will be postponed from October 2003 until October 2004. The law requires the legislation to be reauthorized by October 2003 with the opportunity for a one-year extension. In spite of this likely delay, however, some important areas are emerging that will require our attention in the next reauthorization, regardless of the timing:

- Accountability: how is accreditation holding institutions and programs accountable for their performance, and what are accrediting organizations doing about student learning outcomes?
- Distance learning: some in Washington think that there should be a separate accreditation standard for distance learning. If so, what would this standard look like—given that institutions and programs are often combining distance and site-based learning experiences in courses and programs?
- Transfer of credit: how can accreditation help to strengthen and inform transfer policies at institutions?
- Operational improvements in recognition review: what changes should be made to further strengthen the federal recognition process?

While these issues may change and others may emerge, it is useful for CHEA, its member institutions, and accrediting organizations to monitor events as developments occur. And CHEA will continue our discussion of the upcoming reauthorization and these issues at our conferences, meetings, and workshops.

2002-2003 CHEA Survey

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) is undertaking its second survey of institutional members, accrediting organizations, and the Washington Higher Education Secretariat. The purpose of the survey is threefold: to learn what constituents think of the work that CHEA has done since its inception in 1996-97, to hear from constituents about the work that CHEA should be doing in the future, and to learn of the recent experience of institutions and accrediting organizations with accreditation review. CHEA conducted a similar survey in 1997-98.

Please look for the CHEA 2002-2003 Survey to arrive in late September or early October 2002. And please respond. Your views are very important to the building of CHEA’s future.
The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) established a mediation service in 1998. Mediation is a means by which member institutions and accrediting organizations can work with CHEA in the collegial resolution of differences of opinion. A toll-free number (1-877-955-2432) is available for the convenience of an institution or accrediting organization interested in this service.

Here are some of the key elements of CHEA mediation:

- The CHEA mediation process assists member institutions and participating accrediting organizations in the resolution of disputes. CHEA serves its constituents by contributing to a climate of trust and mutual respect in higher education through assisting colleges and universities and accrediting organizations to resolve differences in a timely and collegial manner.

- CHEA receives, but does not solicit, complaints from institutions and organizations that are members or participants in CHEA, explores facts and issues related to complaints to determine if CHEA can be of assistance, and refers complaints to other sources if CHEA, in its determination, is unable to provide assistance.

- If the complaint is deemed by CHEA to be one in which it can assist, CHEA will convene the principals (via e-mail, telephone or in person) upon request and work with the principals to identify potential means to resolve the dispute.
• CHEA’s mediation will be limited to efforts that can be accommodated within its current resources and capacity and is limited to organizations and institutions that participate in CHEA.

• CHEA will not agree to review any institutional complaint that is still under review by an accrediting organization, nor can CHEA accept any complaint in which legal action is being taken. CHEA’s efforts will not include rendering and enforcing any decision in the course of mediation.
Calendar of Upcoming CHEA Events

- September 23-24, 2002: Board of Directors Meeting, Chicago, IL
- November 25-26, 2002: Committee on Recognition, Washington, DC
- January 27, 2003: Board of Directors Meeting, Phoenix, AZ
- March 10, 2003: Committee on Recognition, Washington, DC
- June 19-20, 2003: Enhancing Usefulness Conference VII, Washington, DC