Recalibrating the Accreditation-Federal Relationship

Council for Higher Education Accreditation
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Five Purposes

- 1. Identify Forces Requiring Recalibration
- 2. Search for a New Model
- 3. Discuss Alternative Models
- 4. Recommend a Congressional Charter
- 5. Suggest Specific Next Steps
Forces Confronting Accreditation’s Future

- Changes in the Academy
- Heightened Expectations
- The Overloaded Pack Animal
- Loss of Credibility
- The 2008 Reauthorization
Search for a New Model

- The CHEA Initiative
- Elements of a Structural Solution
  - Desirable Elements
    - Strengthened Authority
    - Legal Standing
    - Capitalization and Specialized Expertise
    - Sustainability
    - Academic Credibility
Search for a New Model (Cont’d)

- Elements of a Structural Solution
  - Essential Values
    - Self Regulation and Autonomy
    - Mission-centered Review
    - Self-Study
    - Peer Review
Alternative Models: Benefits and Risks

- Maintain the Status Quo
- Abandon Self-Regulation to Feds
- Assign to the States
- Outsource Accreditation
- Transfer to Another Entity
- Adapt the FASB Model
Preferred Option: A Congressional Charter

- History and Types
- “Academic” Charters
- Charter Benefits
  - Recognition and Strengthening
  - Legal and Financial
  - Sustainability and Credibility
  - Authority and Values
Specific Next Steps

- Retain Appropriate Counsel
- Secure Consensus
- Authorize a Task Force
  - Name
  - Purposes
  - Governance Structure
  - Foundation Role
  - Principles, Values and Precepts
Specific Next Steps (Cont’d)

- Secure Sponsors
- Determine Federal Financial Support
- Engage in Efforts to Secure Approval
- Model the Value of Outcomes Measurement
Conclusion

- Recalibration is Required
- Reauthorization Overreaches
- Nation in Danger of Losing Independent Higher Education
- Balance Needed: Institutional Interests and Public Interests
- Strengthen Accreditation as a National Value