Accreditation, Higher Education and the Innovation Environment: Moving Beyond the Present

2013 Annual Conference
January 28 – 30, 2013
Washington Marriott Hotel
1221 22nd Street NW
Washington, DC

Preliminary Program
Monday, January 28
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. OPENING RECEPTION

Tuesday, January 29
7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. PLENARY I: OPENING SESSION
   Welcome and Introductions
   Higher Education, Quality Assurance and the International Climate
What are the major European trends and issues affecting higher education and quality assurance in an international setting and what are their implications for colleges, universities and countries?
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. PLENARY SESSION II
   Accreditation, A New Administration and a New Congress
What might the election bring for accreditation, its federal policy role and its role in society?
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. BREAK
10:30 a.m. – Noon CONCURRENT SESSIONS
1. Accreditation and Academic Freedom: The AAUP-CHEA Advisory Statement
   The AAUP-CHEA Advisory Statement on Accreditation and Academic Freedom speaks to the role that accreditation plays in protecting and strengthening academic freedom. What specific steps might accrediting organizations take to further this important work?
Tuesday, January 29 (continued)

2. Accreditation and Electronic Technology

To what extent has electronic capacity for delivery of the data and information that are required for accreditation review been developed? In what ways does this make reviews more efficient? In what ways does this pose challenges?

3. Anticipating Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act

What accreditation-related issues are likely to be central to the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act? What can the accreditation community do to prepare?

Noon – 1:45 p.m.  PLENARY III: LUNCHEON SESSION

CHEA Award Presentation

MOOCs and Accreditation

Massive open online courses (MOOCs) have quickly become an international phenomenon, led by a significant number of major U.S. research universities. What is the current status of MOOCs and what are the implications for accreditation?

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4. The Future of Legal Education

The President of the American Bar Association has created a Task Force on the Future of Legal Education in response to dramatic changes in the environment for legal education and mounting criticisms of law schools. The Task Force is to make concrete recommendations concerning the economics and costs of legal education, the delivery of legal education and its regulation. What ideas and suggestions about legal education are of importance to the academic and accreditation communities?
5. The Continuing Conversation about Student Learning: More of the Same or Something New?

Discussions of student learning outcomes remain ongoing, with agreement about its importance and, some of the time, disagreement about how to judge whether we are achieving results. Where is this conversation going? What approaches are most effective? What is the status of debates over, e.g., standardized testing and the feasibility of examining student learning at all? Is there an emerging role of faculty around which there is some consensus?

6. Institutional Governance and the Role of Accreditation

Governance in higher education institutions has come under intense scrutiny during the past year. What are the issues here? What is the role of accreditation?

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. SPECIAL SESSION

Update: Accreditation and Federal Policy

What is the current status of issues important to accreditation as the new Administration and the new Congress begin their work?

...evening on your own...

Wednesday, January 30

8:00 a.m. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. PLENARY SESSION IV

The Future of the Credit Hour

The credit hour has played vital roles in the history of higher education. It has served to align the work of institutions, aiding common understanding of expectations of student learning and providing a foundation for transfer of credit. It has been the currency of exchange between students and federal and state financial assistance. Are these the roles that the credit hour will play in the future? Who will decide?
PLENARY SESSION V

Are We “Academically Adrift” and What is Accreditation’s Responsibility?

It has been two years since the publication of *Academically Adrift*, with a good deal of discussion about its findings. Where are we now and what does this mean for accreditation?

BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

7. The Completion Agenda: What Does This Mean for Access?

The emphasis on completion currently emerging from higher education institutions and foundations as well as state and federal governments has, however unintentionally, raised questions about the durability of the country’s commitment to access to higher education. Are we on a path where completion requires limitations on access? If so, what are the implications? If not, what is the current state of access as the completion agenda moves forward?

8. Recognition Workshop

Many U.S. accrediting organizations are undertaking the Council for Higher Education Accreditation recognition review process. This session will focus on key elements of this review as well as the upcoming three-year interim reports that accrediting organizations are to submit.

9. The OECD AHELO Project and Its Impact on the United States

The feasibility study of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s Project on Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes is drawing to a close, with a final report and action in 2013. What is the future of this effort? What has been the experience of U.S. institutions that have participated?
12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.  

PLENARY SESSION VI: CLOSING SESSION

The For-Profit Sector: Where is it Now and Where Does it Want To Be?

The for-profit higher education sector has experienced significant changes during the past few years, during which it has undergone intense scrutiny. What has happened, and how has this sector positioned itself for the future?

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Conference Adjourns
The CHEA International Quality Group (CIQG)  
2013 Annual Meeting  
January 30-31, 2013  
Washington Marriott Hotel

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