The 2010 Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Recognition Policy and Procedures includes a number of changes from the 2006 policy. We hope that this document will be useful as accrediting organizations prepare for the CHEA eligibility and recognition review process. The 2010 policy goes into effect for accrediting organizations seeking CHEA recognition as of June 2011. This summary of the changes is not the complete or official text of the 2010 CHEA Policy and Procedures. Please consult the CHEA website at www.chea.org for the complete text of the CHEA recognition standards.

**Eligibility Standards**

**Paragraph 9(C)**
Changes to this standard include clarification regarding the legal authority of non-U.S. institutions to confer higher education degrees and a footnote that describes how the accrediting organization can provide evidence of meeting this requirement.

**Recognition Standards**

**Paragraph 12(B)**
This standard requires that, in addition to informing the public of decisions on accreditation status, accrediting organizations are to inform the public of the basis for final decisions to grant or reaffirm accreditation and, in the case of denial or withdrawal of accreditation, to provide the specific reasons for the decision accompanied by a response, related to the final decision, from the institution or program (12B.5)

This standard also adds a new requirement that the accrediting organization assure the substantially equivalent application of accrediting standards to U.S. and non-U.S. institutions and programs (12B.9) and a new provision that accrediting organizations implement a practice of informing the public about the harm of degree mills and accreditation mills (12B.10).

**Paragraph 12(F)**
This paragraph includes a new standard that specifies the need for accrediting organizations to have independent authority and capacity to deploy resources (12F.3).
Recognition Process

Interim Reports - Paragraph 17
The paragraph adds the subject of finance to the examples of major changes and includes a new provision that in the event that an accrediting organization experiences a major change outside the interim report timetable, the organization will provide CHEA with an additional, focused report on the change. Please refer to Appendix D pp. 20-21 in the 2010 CHEA Policy and Procedures for a definition of “major change."

Withdrawal of Application - Paragraph 19
An addition to this paragraph clarifies that when an accrediting organization withdraws an application for eligibility it cannot re-apply until one full year from the date of withdrawal of the application.

Application After Denial of Eligibility - Paragraph 20
This is a new provision that requires an accrediting organization that has been unsuccessful in seeking eligibility for CHEA recognition to wait one full year from the date of official denial of eligibility by the CHEA Board of Directors to re-apply for eligibility.

Paragraph 25
This paragraph now includes deferral of eligibility in the list circumstances under which an accrediting organization may request a review of a CHEA Committee on Recognition recommendation by the CHEA Board of Directors.

Application After Denial or Withdrawal of Recognition - Paragraph 40
This is a new provision indicating that an accrediting organization that has been unsuccessful in seeking recognition from CHEA cannot re-apply until one full year from the date of official denial of recognition by the CHEA Board of Directors. The paragraph also includes new language specifying that when an organization withdraws an application for recognition, it cannot reapply until one full year from the date of the withdrawal of the application.

Additional Provisions

Communication and Meeting with CHEA - Paragraph 45
This is a new provision that addresses when one or more accredited institutions or programs of an accrediting organization are experiencing a major difficulty, CHEA may request to meet and consult with the accrediting organization to obtain more information. Please also refer to Appendix D, pp. 20-21 in the 2010 CHEA Policy and Procedures for a definition of “major difficulty.”