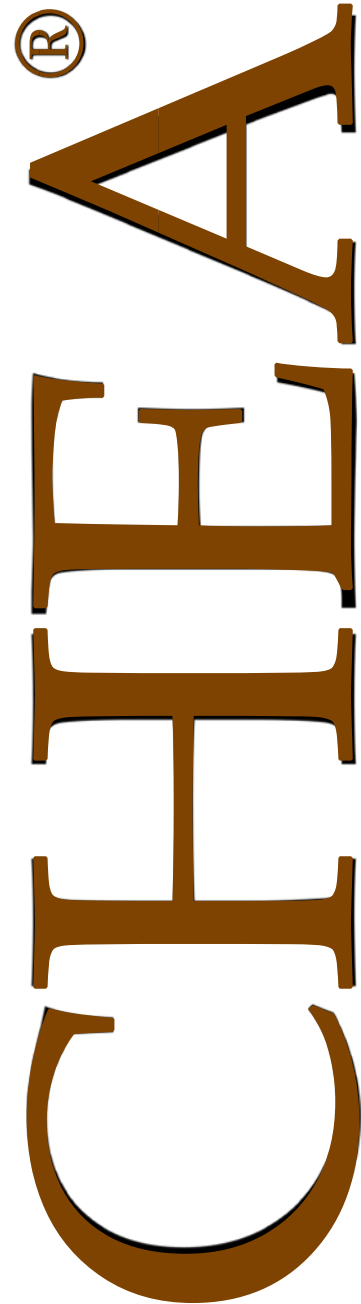


July 2, 2018
Proposed Revisions of the 2010
**RECOGNITION POLICY AND
PROCEDURES
MARK-UP**

Recognition of Accrediting Organizations

Policy and Procedures



*Approved by the CHEA Board of Directors
September 28, 1998*

*Revised by the CHEA Board of Directors
January 23, 2006*

*Revised by the CHEA Board of Directors
June 28, 2010*

Note: Accrediting organizations committed to review at the November 2010 or March 2011 meetings will continue under the January 23, 2006 policy.

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Table of Contents to be updated with final changes.

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RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

BACKGROUND

1. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) was formed in 1996 as an organization committed to enhancing following an extensive and searching debate about the appropriate role for a national organization concerned with accreditation of higher education institutions and programs. Presidents of American universities and colleges established CHEA to strengthen higher education through strengthened accreditation of higher education institutions. Accreditation is a process of external quality review created and used by higher education to scrutinize institutions and programs for quality assurance and quality improvement. "CHEA As its mission statement provides, "The Council for Higher Education Accreditation will serve students and their families, colleges and universities, sponsoring bodies, governments, and employers by promoting academic quality through formal recognition of higher education accreditation bodies and will coordinate and work to advance self-regulation through accreditation." (CHEA Mission Statement)
2. Accrediting organizations are non-governmental organizations structured and organized to review and evaluate institutions or programs and render judgments about their accreditation status. CHEA recognizes regional, national career- or faith-related and programmatic accrediting organizations. CHEA carries forward a long tradition that recognition of accrediting organizations should be a key strategy to assure quality, accountability, and improvement in higher education. Recognition by CHEA affirms that the standards, structures and practices processes of accrediting organizations promote are consistent with academic quality, improvement, and accountability and needed flexibility and innovation in the institutions or programs they accredit. expectations that CHEA has established. CHEA will recognize regional, specialized, national, and professional accrediting organizations.
3. Recognition by CHEA conveys only that the accrediting organization meets the recognition standards with respect to institutions or programs included in the CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation [language modified and moved from Paragraph 4 below]. Such recognition is not intended to infringe on the right of any institution or program to determine for itself whether to affiliate with an accrediting organization. Accreditation,

~~as distinct from recognition of accrediting organizations, focuses on higher education institutions. Accreditation aims to assure academic quality and accountability, and to encourage improvement. Accreditation is a voluntary, nongovernmental peer review process by the higher education community. It extends the tradition of collegial governance within the decentralized and diverse higher education enterprise. The work of accrediting organizations involves hundreds of self-evaluations and site visits each year, attracts thousands of higher education volunteer professionals, and calls for substantial investment of institutional, accrediting organization, and volunteer time and effort. Appendix A more extensively defines accreditation.~~

4. ~~Recognition by CHEA shall be understood to convey only that the organization meets CHEA's recognition standards. Such recognition is not in any way intended to infringe on the right of any academic institution to determine for itself whether it should affiliate with any accrediting organization~~ [language modified and moved to Paragraph 3 above]

CHEA Recognition and accreditation may occur alongside and is independent in the context of other reviews. For example, the federal government, through the U.S. United States Department of Education, also recognizes accrediting organizations. Federal, as distinct from CHEA, recognition aims to assure that the standards of accrediting organizations meet expectations for institutional and program participation in federal initiatives, such as student aid. State licensure reviews, too, serve important public purposes, including consumer protection ~~in the higher education field.~~

CHEA RECOGNITION PURPOSES AND REQUIREMENTS

5. CHEA Recognition signifies that the of accrediting organizations embraces the value of periodic external review of its accreditation activities. ~~has three basic purposes:~~ Recognition:

- ~~• TO ADVANCE ACADEMIC QUALITY. To confirm that accrediting organizations have standards that advance academic quality in higher education; that those standards emphasize student achievement and high expectations of teaching and learning, research, and service; and that those standards are developed within the framework of institutional mission.~~
- Holds accrediting organizations responsible for meeting all CHEA standards of academic quality, accountability, transparency and effective organization and practice;
- ~~• TO DEMONSTRATE ACCOUNTABILITY. To confirm that accrediting organizations have standards that assure accountability through consistent, clear, and coherent communication to the public and the higher education community about the results of educational efforts.~~

Accountability also includes a commitment by the accrediting organization to involve the public in accreditation decision making.

- Affirms the fitness of accrediting organizations to promote academic quality and serve higher education, students and the public, now and in the foreseeable future; and
- ~~TO ENCOURAGE, WHERE APPROPRIATE, SCRUTINY AND PLANNING FOR CHANGE AND FOR NEEDED IMPROVEMENT. To confirm that accrediting organizations have standards that encourage institutions to plan, where appropriate, for change and for needed improvement; to develop and sustain activities that anticipate and address needed change; and to stress student achievement.~~
- Serves as evidence to the public that the recognized accrediting organizations are credible sources of judgment about academic quality in higher education.

6. A CHEA-recognized accrediting organization bases accreditation judgments principally on the performance of institutions or programs in relation to student achievement. In addition, an accrediting organization bases accreditation judgments on the institution's or program's structure, operation and capacity. The *Recognition Policy and Procedures* emphasizes self-study and peer review as central to judging institutions or programs and calls for use of reliable data and external verification of data as part of these processes. Accrediting organizations also sustain effective means of communicating with the public and within the profession about their accreditation judgments. Recognized accrediting organizations provide evidence that their standards and policies are applied and enforced. A recognized accrediting organization carries out its accrediting activities while acknowledging and valuing institution or program mission and independence.

A CHEA-recognized accrediting organization:

- Awards or continues accredited status only for institutions or programs that demonstrate effective performance in relation to student learning and that make information on this public. Effective performance with regard to students entails evidence, as pertinent, of completion, graduation, retention, success with academic transfer, success with entry to graduate school and success in moving into the world of work. Performance expectations may emanate from the accrediting organization working with its institutions or programs, or from an institution or program or from both.
- Provides to the public readily accessible and easily understandable information about the accreditation status of institutions or programs and what this accreditation status signifies, including length of a term of accreditation, reasons for awarding accreditation status, information about any deficiencies in relation to accreditation standards and policies and reasons for conditioning or denying accreditation.

- Requires that all accreditation standards be met in order for an institution or program to obtain and maintain accredited status.
 - Utilizes means to identify and act on institutions or programs that are ineffective with regard to student learning, based on expectations set by the accreditor, the institution or program or both.
 - Maintains a strong quality improvement capacity.
 - Sustains ongoing attention to innovation, where needed, in institutions and programs and in the carrying out of its own standards, policies and procedures.
6. ~~CHEA acknowledges, respects, and is committed to the enhancement of the mission of accrediting organizations. CHEA has responsibility to advance, through the recognition process, the quality and public understanding of accreditation and of recognized accrediting organizations.~~
7. ~~CHEA's primary focus is quality assurance and quality improvement. Accrediting organizations that seek CHEA recognition must demonstrate the quality of their activities and the pertinence and value of their activities to higher education and the public interest.~~
8. ~~Accrediting organizations seek to demonstrate that they meet CHEA eligibility and recognition standards.~~

ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

9. ~~**ELIGIBILITY.** To be eligible for CHEA recognition, the accreditation organization:~~
- ~~A. demonstrates that the organization's mission and scope are consistent with the *CHEA Institutional Eligibility and Recognition Policy* (Appendix B), including that a majority of the institutions and programs accredited by the organization grant higher education degrees. The *Policy* provides, in part, that the recognition process will place increasing emphasis on the effectiveness of accrediting organizations in assuring academic quality of institutions or programs;~~
 - ~~B. is non-governmental;~~
 - ~~C. accredits institutions or programs in institutions that have legal authority to confer higher education degrees, whether U.S. or non-U.S. institutions;*~~
 - ~~D. accredits institutions or programs at generally accepted higher education levels;~~

~~E. has written procedures that describe, officially and publicly:~~

~~1. the organization's decision-making processes, policies, and procedures that lead to accreditation actions, and~~

~~2. the scope of accreditation that may be granted, evaluative criteria (standards or characteristics) used, and levels of accreditation status conferred;~~

~~F. has procedures that include a self-evaluation by the institution or program and on-site review by a visiting team, or has alternative processes that CHEA considers to be valid;~~

~~G. demonstrates independence from any parent entity, or sponsoring entity, for the conduct of accreditation activities and determination of accreditation status; and~~

~~H. is operational, with more than one completed accreditation review, including action by the accreditation decision-making body at each degree level, or for each type of program, identified in the statement of proposed recognized scope of accreditation.~~

~~*For non-U.S. institutions in countries in which legal authority to award degrees is not available, the accrediting organization meets this requirement if it demonstrates that it accredits only those institutions that have standing and significant support in the local community or other communities of interest, e.g., well-known professional organizations and other respected entities that support the institution.~~

CHEA-RECOGNIZED SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION RECOGNITION

~~10. CHEA-RECOGNIZED SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION. CHEA recognizes accrediting organizations for work in judging the quality of U.S. institutions and programs and, where permitted under this policy, other institutions and programs at the associate degree level or above. As part of eligibility and recognition reviews, applicants for recognition will supply information to enable CHEA to determine whether recognition is warranted and what the recognized scope of accreditation will be, including:~~

- ~~• a clear statement of proposed scope of accreditation activity;~~
- ~~• a clear statement of the accrediting organization's purposes and why those purposes are in the public interest; and~~
- ~~• a description of the accrediting organization and its activities; the quality, pertinence, and value of those activities; and the ways in which those activities serve higher education and the public interest.~~

When providing this information, applicants demonstrate that:

- the statement of proposed scope addresses the types of institutions, the programs to be reviewed, degree levels, and the geographic boundaries of accreditation activity, including the extent of non-U.S. accreditation, if any;
- the statement of proposed scope is consistent with organizational mission statements, charters, bylaws, candidacy requirements, and other requirements for accreditation and affiliation; and
- the accrediting organization has had consultation with appropriate constituencies.

The accrediting organization submits a clear statement of its proposed scope of recognition, which will be used to inform the public of the accreditation activities for which the accrediting organization holds recognition. The scope statement includes the following information about the accreditation activities for which recognition is sought: (1) types of institutions or programs; (2) degree levels; (3) geographic boundaries of accreditation activity, including specification of United States and international locations; and (4) degree areas or professional fields of study. The accrediting organization submits evidence of its capacity and competence to carry out accreditation activities identified in the scope statement.

Recognition is available only if a majority of institutions or programs the organization accredits grant degrees at the associate level or above. The CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation also may or may not include additional offerings, such as internships, clinical training and post-doctoral work. However, such offerings are not counted when determining whether the accrediting organization meets the degree-granting requirements.

Separate from the scope statement, the accrediting organization identifies any accreditation activities it conducts for which it is not seeking recognition. These activities are not part of the CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation.

11. CHANGES IN THE OF CHEA-RECOGNIZED SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION. Proposed changes in the CHEA-recognized The CHEA Committee on Recognition (“Committee”) will review requests for change of recognized scope of accreditation are considered by the Committee on Recognition (Committee) during or that occur outside a of the regular recognition review. Changes in CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation include but are not limited to: (1) change in the type(s) of institutions and programs to be accredited; (2) addition or removal of a degree level; (3) change of geographical boundaries of accreditation activity, such as an expansion to include activity outside the United States; and (4) addition or removal of a degree area or professional field of study. An accrediting organization:

To be considered for a change in the CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation, the recognized accrediting organization submits:

- Its current statement of CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation; notifies the Committee of its intent, including a rationale, the authorization from the

- 254 ~~accreditation decision-making body, and a time frame for conducting~~
255 ~~reviews;~~
- 256 B. A clear statement of the proposed change in the CHEA-recognized scope of
257 accreditation; conducts pilot reviews to demonstrate capacity to carry out
258 accreditation reviews under the new recognized scope of accreditation;
259 and
- 260 C. The reasons for the proposed change, including evidence that the
261 accrediting organization's decision-making body has authorized the
262 change; submits a formal request for change of recognized scope of
263 accreditation.
- 264 D. Evidence of the accrediting organization's capacity and competence to
265 carry out accreditation reviews under the new proposed scope, including
266 evidence from the results of pilot reviews;
- 267 E. A timetable for implementation of the new CHEA-recognized scope of
268 accreditation, including impact on currently enrolled students affected by
269 the change; and
- 270 F. Evidence of consultation with appropriate constituencies.

271 The decision of the Committee with respect to a requested change in CHEA-
272 recognized scope of accreditation will be final unless the Committee refers the matter to
273 the Board of Directors (Board). The Board in its discretion also may act on an accrediting
274 organization's scope of accreditation in the recognition review process or incident to a
275 requested change of scope.

276 If a recognized accrediting organization alters its CHEA-recognized scope of
277 accreditation in non-substantive ways, e.g., editorial revisions, it promptly notifies CHEA
278 staff and includes a brief description of what led the accrediting organization to make the
279 alterations. CHEA will modify documents that include the CHEA-recognized scope of
280 accreditation.

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RECOGNITION STANDARDS

12. **RECOGNITION STANDARDS.** ~~The following six standards are applied to accrediting organizations seeking CHEA recognition: CHEA requires that an accrediting organization meet all parts of each of three recognition standards, as administered and interpreted by CHEA, in order to be recognized. A recognized accrediting organization provides evidence that it:~~

- A. ~~Promotes advances~~ academic quality ~~and advances student achievement;~~
- B. ~~De~~monstrates public accountability for performance and transparency;
and
- C. Sustains an effective accreditation structure and organization. encourages,
~~where appropriate, self-scrutiny and planning for change and for needed~~
improvement;
- D. ~~employs appropriate and fair procedures in decision making;~~
- E. ~~demonstrates ongoing review of accreditation practices; and~~
- F. ~~possesses sufficient resources.~~

12A. **STANDARD ONE. PROMOTES ADVANCES ACADEMIC QUALITY AND ADVANCES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.** Advancement of ~~Advancing~~ academic quality is at the core of voluntary accreditation. ~~“Academic quality” refers to results associated with teaching, learning, research, and service within the framework of institutional mission. To be~~ recognized, the accrediting organization provides evidence that it has implements standards or policies which:

- A. Articulate the accrediting organization’s expectations for academic quality and results associated with institutional or program performance, including student achievement, consistent with a clear description of academic quality in the context of institutional or program mission;
- B. Require institutions or programs to establish and make public their expectations for achievement of academic quality and indicators of student success, to implement standards or policies that the institutions or programs will have processes to determine whether quality standards are being met students and graduates meet the stated expectations and to make public, in aggregate form, evidence of student success;
- C. As a central part of the accrediting organization’s decision-making about accreditation status, address how well institutions or programs meet the accrediting organization’s performance standards or policies that include expectations of institutional or program quality, including, at a minimum, performance expectations student achievement, consistent with institution or program type mission;

D. Refer to institutional or programmatic resources only to the extent required for students to emerge adequately prepared or to address health and safety in the delivery of programs; standards or policies that focus on educational quality while respecting the institution's responsibility to set priorities and to control how the institution or program is structured and operates, and that incorporate an awareness of how programs function within the broader purposes of the institution; and

E. Apply its quality standards and policies in ways that respect the institution's or program's prerogative to set priorities and to control how the institution or program is structured and operates; and standards or policies designed to foster desired or needed student achievement and that refer to resources only to the extent required for students to emerge from institutions or programs appropriately prepared, or to address health and safety in the delivery of programs.

F. Encourage and assist institutions and programs in ongoing improvement of academic quality and performance, including a commitment to needed flexibility and innovation.

12B. **STANDARD TWO. DEMONSTRATES ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PERFORMANCE AND TRANSPARENCY.** The accrediting organization demonstrates Ppublic accountability for performance and transparency includes expectations related to the following three elements: (A) performance of accrediting organizations, (B) performance of accredited institutions or programs, and, if applicable, (C) performance of accrediting organizations engaged in international activity. in two ways. It has standards that call for institutions to provide consistent information about academic quality and student achievement and thus to foster continuing public awareness, confidence, and investment. Second, the accrediting organization itself demonstrates public involvement in its accreditation activities for the purpose of obtaining perspectives independent of the accrediting organization. Representatives of the public may include students, parents, persons from businesses and the professions, elected and appointed officials, and others. To be recognized, the accrediting organization provides evidence that it has implemented:

A. The accrediting organization establishes and implements standards, policies or procedures that:

1. Inform the public of the reason(s) for the accrediting organization's accreditation actions (i.e., decision made by the accrediting organization, as the result of an institution or program review, to grant, reaffirm, deny, withdraw or defer accreditation, or to impose notice, warning, show cause or probation status) in a timely and readily accessible manner, including the institutional or program response, if any;
2. Provide for substantive and timely response by the accrediting organization to legitimate public concerns and complaints about an institution, program or the accrediting organization;

372 3. Provide a procedure for the accrediting organization to take timely action to
373 prevent substantially underperforming institutions or programs from
374 achieving or maintaining accredited status. The procedure includes
375 application of indicators to determine institution or program performance
376 weakness, procedure for intervention and options for action by the
377 accrediting organization in such cases; and

378
379 4. Include ongoing attention to innovation, where needed.
380

381 B. Institutions and programs accredited by the recognized accrediting
382 organization:
383

384 1. Provide timely, readily accessible, accurate and consistent aggregate
385 information to the public about institutional or programmatic performance
386 and student achievement, as such information is determined by the
387 institution or program;
388

389 2. Distinguish accurately between programs that are accredited and those
390 that are not; and
391

392 3. Provide evidence of ongoing attention to innovation, where needed.
393

394 C. Recognized accrediting organizations, with respect to institutions or
395 programs located outside the United States:

396 1. Communicate and consult with appropriate in-country governmental and
397 non-governmental accreditation or quality assurance entities regarding the
398 accrediting organization's current and proposed activities;

399 2. Provide evidence of the accrediting organization's capacity and
400 competence to engage in international accreditation activities, including
401 language and culture differences, consideration of on-going quality
402 assurance activities in the country, national and local factors that would
403 affect the accreditation process and attention to the safety of all those
404 involved;
405

406 3. Provide evidence of substantially comparable application of standards,
407 practices, capacity and expectations of results to U.S. and non-U.S.
408 institutions and programs alike; and
409

410 4. When describing the accreditation status of international institutions and
411 programs, provide to the public notice of the nature and content of the
412 accommodations that were made for local conditions and alternative
413 evaluation standards or practices that were used as part of the
414 accreditation process and decision-making.

415 ~~1. accreditation standards or policies that require institutions or programs~~
416 ~~routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance,~~
417 ~~including student achievement as determined by the institution or program;~~

- ~~2. accreditation standards or policies that focus only on the institutions or programs seeking accreditation and do not extend to other offerings;~~
- ~~3. accreditation standards or policies that require institutions to distinguish accurately between programs that have achieved accredited status and those that have not;~~
- ~~4. policies and procedures that include representatives of the public in decision making and policy setting;~~
- ~~5. policies or procedures, developed in consultation with institutions or programs, 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 specific reasons for the decision accompanied by a response, related to the final decision, from the institution or program;~~
- ~~6. policies or procedures that call for substantive and timely response to legitimate public concerns and complaints;~~
- ~~7. policies or procedures that call for appropriate consultation regarding, and resolution of conflicts between, accreditation standards and state or local laws governing the institution or program seeking accreditation;~~
- ~~8. standards, policies, or procedures that, when the accrediting organization engages in international activities, assure reasonable efforts to communicate and consult with appropriate governmental and nongovernmental accreditation or quality assurance entities in other countries;~~
- ~~9. policies that call for the substantially equivalent application of standards and policies to U.S. and non-U.S. institutions and programs alike; and~~
- ~~10. a practice of informing the public about the harm of degree mills and accreditation mills.~~

12. STANDARD THREE. SUSTAINS AN EFFECTIVE ACCREDITATION STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION. A recognized accrediting organization provides evidence that it implements standards, policies and practices and sustains organizational characteristics consistent with CHEA requirements. To be recognized, the accrediting organization demonstrates that it:

A. Has legal authority to operate.

B. Accredits institutions or programs that have legal authority to operate as higher institutions or programs and to confer higher education degrees at the associate degree level or above. For non-U.S. institutions in countries in which legal authority to award degrees is not available, the U.S. accrediting organization meets this requirement if it demonstrates that it accredits only those institutions that have standing and significant support in the local community or other communities of interest, e.g., well-known professional organizations and other respected entities that support the institution.

460 C. Accredits institutions or programs, a majority of which grant degrees at the
461 associate level or above.

462 D. Has written bylaws, policies, procedures and standards readily accessible
463 to the public that describe officially:

464 1. The scope of accreditation that may be granted, evaluative standards
465 used and levels of accreditation status conferred;

466 2. The organization's operating and decision-making processes,
467 policies and procedures; and

468 3. Publishes a readily accessible directory of all currently accredited
469 institutions or programs and the corresponding levels of
470 accreditation and accreditation status, including any accreditation
471 status conditions imposed by the accrediting organization (i.e.,
472 restrictions or other specifications affecting an accreditation status,
473 including but not limited to, time limitation of the accreditation cycle,
474 warning, show cause, suspension or other conditions defined in the
475 accrediting organization's policy).

476 E. Maintains clearly described and published operational separation from any
477 parent or sponsoring organizations, including with respect to accreditation
478 standards, policies and procedures, the conduct of all accreditation
479 reviews, functions, operations and all accreditation actions.

480 F. Is operational and has conducted accreditation reviews for each type of
481 institution or program identified in the proposed statement of CHEA-
482 recognized scope of accreditation.

483 G. Has adequate financial, staff and operational resources to perform its
484 accreditation functions efficiently and effectively.

485 H. Makes clear distinctions between actions required of institutions or
486 programs necessary for accreditation and actions that are suggestions for
487 institution or program improvement.

488 I. Assures procedural due process in accreditation activities, including (1)
489 publication of an appeals policy that informs the institution or program of
490 the process to be used and actions that may be taken (i.e., the grounds for
491 appeal, the process by which the appeal will be conducted and heard by
492 individuals independent of the body that made the decision to deny or
493 remove accreditation and any costs associated with an appeal) and (2) an
494 effectively administered conflict of interest policy that covers all accrediting
495 organization staff, site visitors and members of accreditation-
496 recommending and decision-making bodies.

497 J. Requires participation by higher education professionals, practitioners
498 where appropriate and the public in accreditation reviews, decision-making,
499 and policy setting, including review, revision and adoption of accreditation
500 standards.

501 K. Fosters reasonable consistency in accreditation reviews of, and
502 accreditation actions about, institutions or programs, while allowing for
503 varying institution or program missions, purposes and operations.

504 L. For purposes of promoting effective practice in the future, engages in
505 regular critical self-evaluation of its performance, standards, policies and
506 impact by the:

507 1. Review of aggregate information regarding the extent to which the
508 accredited institutions or programs are achieving their expectations for
509 student learning; and

510 2. Collection and review of evidence that the accrediting organization's own
511 performance promotes academic quality and student success and serves
512 both higher education and the public.

513 ~~12C.—ENCOURAGES, WHERE APPROPRIATE, SELF-SCRUTINY AND PLANNING FOR~~
514 ~~CHANGE AND FOR NEEDED IMPROVEMENT. The accrediting organization encourages,~~
515 ~~where appropriate, ongoing self-examination and planning for change. Such self-~~
516 ~~scrutiny and planning entail thoughtful assessment of quality (especially student~~
517 ~~achievement) in the context of the institution's mission. Encouragement of such self-~~
518 ~~scrutiny and planning should not be confused with solely a demand for additional~~
519 ~~resources, but rather should enable institutions and programs to focus on effective ways~~
520 ~~to achieve their institution and program goals. Such self-scrutiny and planning are~~
521 ~~means to enhance the usefulness of accreditation to institutions and programs. To be~~
522 ~~recognized, the accrediting organization provides evidence that it has implemented~~
523 ~~standards or policies that:~~

524 ~~1. stress self-examination and self-analysis by institutions or programs for~~
525 ~~planning, where appropriate, for change and for needed improvement, in~~
526 ~~the context of institutional mission;~~

527 ~~2. enable institutions and programs to be creative and diverse in determining~~
528 ~~how to organize themselves structurally, how best to use their resources,~~
529 ~~and what personnel and other policies and procedures are needed to attain~~
530 ~~their student achievement goals;~~

531 ~~3. encourage institutions or programs to innovate or experiment; and~~

532 ~~4. require the accrediting organization to distinguish clearly between actions~~
533 ~~necessary for accreditation and actions that are considerations for~~
534 ~~improvement.~~

535
536 ~~12D.—EMPLOYS APPROPRIATE AND FAIR PROCEDURES IN DECISION MAKING. The~~
537 ~~accrediting organization maintains appropriate and fair policies and procedures that~~

include effective checks and balances. The accreditation process includes ongoing participation by higher education professionals and the public in decision making about accreditation policies and procedures. To be recognized, the accrediting organization provides evidence that it has implemented standards, policies, or procedures that:

1. require participation by higher education professionals and the public;
2. foster reasonable consistency in reviews of institutions or programs while respecting varying institution or program purposes and mission;
3. assure that the process to deny or remove accreditation is specified and fair, and inform the institution or program about the process to be used and actions that may be taken; and
4. assure a specified and fair appeals process when there is an action to deny or remove accreditation; inform the institution or program about the process by which the appeal will be conducted, the grounds for appeal, and any costs associated with an appeal; and continue the current accreditation status of the institution or program until an appeal decision is rendered.

12E. DEMONSTRATES ONGOING REVIEW OF ACCREDITATION PRACTICES. Even as higher education institutions and programs undertake ongoing self-scrutiny to maintain and improve quality, accrediting organizations need self-scrutiny of their accrediting practices. Such review should also include examination of the accreditor's impact on institutions and responsiveness to the broader accreditation and higher education community. To be recognized, the accrediting organization provides evidence that it sustains ongoing:

1. critical self-review that can further responsiveness, flexibility, and accountability when the accrediting organization works with institutions, programs, and the public;
2. initiatives that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of services to institutions or programs;
3. review of its value to the institution in its entirety and to the higher education community; and
4. review, within its resources, of the impact of its standards and procedures on institutions or programs.

12F. POSSESSES SUFFICIENT RESOURCES. Accreditors must have and maintain predictable and stable resources if they are to meet the expectations of institutions, programs, and the public. To be recognized, the accrediting organization presents evidence that it:

1. has adequate financial, staff, and operational resources to perform its accreditation functions efficiently and effectively;
2. conducts ongoing review of its capacity to support its accreditation mission; and

3. ~~sustains independent authority and capacity to deploy resources in the service of its mission.~~

COMMITTEE ON RECOGNITION

13. MEMBERSHIP. ~~The Committee is appointed by the CHEA Board of Directors (“Board of Directors”) upon recommendation by the President of CHEA in consultation with CHEA-recognized accrediting organizations. The Committee is responsible for considering the eligibility and recognition status of new and continuing accrediting organizations. The Committee is accountable to the Board of Directors and forwards its recommendations for eligibility and recognition to the Board. The Committee will consist of nine (9) members, each serving a three (3)-year term. The Committee will include public members, members from regional, specialized, national, and professional accrediting organizations, and members from colleges and universities. CHEA will seek participation that reflects the diversity of the accrediting community and higher education institutions.~~

13. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ~~The Committee reviews applications for advises the Board of Directors concerning eligibility, recognition, and change of recognized scope of accreditation of accrediting organizations and makes recommendations to the Board. With due regard for the Committee’s advice and applying a presumption of regularity, the Board of Directors reviews the Committee’s reports and recommendations and makes final determinations as to the eligibility, recognition, and change of recognized scope of accreditation of the accrediting organizations. The Committee reviews and makes the final determination with respect to editorial modifications to the CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation, interim reports and requests by the Committee for information. The Committee reviews and makes the final determination with respect to changes to CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation, in accord with the provisions of Paragraph 8. Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible for service on the Committee.~~

14. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS. ~~The Committee, in consultation with the President of CHEA, will establish the time, place, and procedures for its meetings. The Committee will consider all materials it deems pertinent that are generated by the recognition review. The Committee will review an accrediting organization at regularly scheduled meetings.~~

14. MEMBERSHIP. ~~The Committee is appointed by the CHEA Board of Directors (“Board of Directors”) upon recommendation by the President of CHEA in consultation with CHEA-recognized accrediting organizations and others. The Committee is responsible for considering the eligibility and recognition status of new and continuing accrediting organizations. The Committee is accountable to the Board of Directors and forwards its recommendations for eligibility and recognition to the Board. The Committee will consist of nine (9) members, each serving a three (3)-year term, and each of whom may be reappointed to one or more three (3)-year terms. The Committee will include public members, members from regional, specialized, national career- or faith-~~

~~related, and programmatic professional~~ accrediting organizations, and members from colleges and universities. CHEA will seek participation that reflects the diversity of the accrediting community and higher education institutions. Current Board members are ineligible for service on the Committee.

~~15. COMMITTEE RELATIONSHIP TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The Committee advises the Board of Directors concerning eligibility, recognition, and change of recognized scope of accreditation of accrediting organizations. With due regard for the Committee's advice, the Board of Directors reviews the Committee's reports and recommendations and makes final determinations as to eligibility, recognition, and change of recognized scope of accreditation of accrediting organizations. Members of the Board of Directors are not eligible for service on the Committee.~~

~~15. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS. The Committee, in consultation with the President of CHEA, will establish the time, place, and procedures for its meetings. The Committee will consider all materials it deems pertinent that are generated by the recognition review. The Committee will review an accrediting organization at regularly scheduled meetings.~~

RECOGNITION REVIEW PROCESS

16. *FREQUENCY OF RECOGNITION REVIEW.* A CHEA-recognized ~~At a minimum, the~~ accrediting organization will undergo a recognition review every ~~ten~~ seven (7) years, or such other period as the Board approves.

17. *INTERIM REVIEWS REPORTS.* ~~A r~~Recognized accrediting organizations submits an will provide interim reports, normally at the mid-point end of the term of recognition ~~third and sixth years.~~ The ~~reports focus on~~ major purpose of the interim report is to inform the Committee of organizational changes ~~in, e.g.,~~ changes in governance, financial condition, finance, functions, operations, relationships with parent or sponsoring organization, entities, standards, policies or procedures, that relate to ~~CHEA eligibility and recognition standards and that demonstrate that~~ The Committee will review such changes to determine that the accrediting organization continues to meet the recognition standards. In keeping with the expectations regarding academic quality, student success, public accountability and transparency, the interim report is to include information to demonstrate that the accrediting organization meets CHEA requirements in this regard (per Standard Two, A1 and B1).

In the event that the accrediting organization experiences a major changes to its governance, financial condition, functions, operations, relationship with parent or sponsoring organization, standards, policies or procedures outside the scheduled interim review, report timetable, the accrediting organization is expected to will provide timely information to CHEA ~~with an additional, focused report on the this~~ changes.

18. **REVIEW OUT OF SEQUENCE.** At its discretion, CHEA may elect to review a recognized accrediting organization at any time out of sequence when:

- A. There is evidence of ongoing deficient performance of accredited institutions and programs; the accrediting organization proposes to change the scope of its recognition or other fundamental aspects of its organization or accreditation activities, including major changes in governance, relationships with sponsoring entities, standards, policies, or procedures that may affect the ability of the organization to meet CHEA eligibility or recognition standards; or
- B. Tthere are has been a pattern of documented concerns related to CHEA eligibility or recognition standards from institutions or programs following accreditation reviews by the accrediting organization over time, and received by CHEA staff that, in the Committee's judgment, indicate that the accrediting organization may not be meeting one or more recognition standards; or and the institutions or programs have utilized the accrediting organization's procedures for addressing complaints; or
- C. There are changes in the organizational structure or operations of the accrediting organization which may alter the conditions upon which recognition was granted there have been documented concerns that, in its judgment, the Committee believes indicate that the organization may not be meeting one or more of the CHEA eligibility or recognition standards.

When CHEA staff receives such information, it will disclose the concerns to the Committee and the accrediting organization and invite a response from the accrediting organization. The Committee will examine the information received and the accrediting organization's response, if any. The Committee may decide to conduct a full recognition review; determine that the matter does not warrant a review out of sequence; request additional information; or take other action it deems appropriate, such as a review limited in scope to the area in which there is evidence of ongoing deficient performance.

19. **WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION.** An accrediting oOrganizations may withdraw an application for eligibility at any time in the process prior up to consideration by the CHEA Board of Directors at a formal meeting. If an application is withdrawn before Committee action (i.e., recommendation from the Committee to the Board), the Committee and the Board of Directors will be informed in executive session. If an application is withdrawn after Committee action, the withdrawal and the Committee's action will be reported at the next public CHEA Board of Directors meeting. If an accrediting organization withdraws an application for eligibility recognition, it cannot reapply until at least one full year from the formal date of withdrawal of the application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

20. **INQUIRIES ABOUT RECOGNITION: INITIAL STAFF CONSULTATION.** Before pursuing a recognition review, an accrediting organization shall consult with CHEA staff about the recognition policy, process and CHEA expectations. CHEA staff will initially advise an accrediting organization about applicable recognition requirements set forth in this *Recognition Policy and Procedures*. Accrediting organizations may include non-governmental, U.S.-based membership organizations and such other organizations as the Board from time to time may determine to be considered for recognition.

~~**APPLICATION AFTER DENIAL OF ELIGIBILITY.** An accrediting organization that has previously sought eligibility for CHEA recognition and has been unsuccessful cannot reapply until one full year from the date of official denial of eligibility by the CHEA Board of Directors.~~

21. **CEO LETTER OF INTENT TO CHEA.** To initiate the formal process either for an initial recognition review or for a continuing review, the chief executive officer of the accrediting organization submits will send a letter of intent that includes documentation that the decision-making body of the accrediting organization authorizes the application, with an application fee to CHEA. CHEA staff will acknowledge the letter of intent and supply information about the recognition process, a schedule, and a copy of the CHEA *Recognition Policy and Procedures*. Upon receipt of the letter of intent, CHEA will inform the Committee and the public that the accrediting organization is seeking initial or continuing recognition will be informed of the letter of intent.

22. **SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION.** Applications are submitted in accordance with the CHEA *Guidelines for Preparation of a Recognition Application*. The fee for recognition review is sent at the time of the submission of the application. A self-evaluation that provides evidence that the accrediting organization meets all the recognition standards is required. CHEA will consider a range of processes for conducting the self-evaluation and for providing expected evidence.

~~**CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY.** An accrediting organization seeking recognition by CHEA demonstrates to the Committee that it meets CHEA's eligibility standards. The Committee will review an accrediting organization's documentation and consider whether such documentation satisfies eligibility standards.~~

~~23. The Committee will make its recommendation to the Board of Directors as to the eligibility of an accrediting organization and will notify the accrediting organization within thirty (30) days after the recommendation. If the Committee recommends that an accrediting organization should not be considered eligible for CHEA recognition, the notice will include a statement of the reasons for that recommendation and will identify the specific eligibility standards that the accrediting organization does not meet.~~

~~24. If the Committee recommends that an accrediting organization should be considered eligible for CHEA recognition and the Board of Directors determines that the organization is eligible, the recognition process will proceed.~~

25. ~~If the Committee recommends that a decision regarding the eligibility of an accrediting organization should be deferred or an accrediting organization should not be considered eligible for CHEA recognition, the accrediting organization may request that the Board of Directors review the recommendation of deferral or ineligibility. The accrediting organization must submit a request for review in writing to the President of CHEA within 30 days after receipt of notice of the Committee's recommendation. The request for review must address any alleged procedural errors in the recognition process and any alleged errors of fact or interpretation in the Committee's recommendation and include any additional information that addresses the concerns raised by the Committee. The Committee will cease the recognition process unless, after review by the Board of Directors, the accrediting organization is determined to be eligible for CHEA recognition. The Board of Directors will review the Committee's recommendation under the procedures described below at Paragraphs 36-43.~~

26. ~~Before the Committee and the Board of Directors act on the accrediting organization's application for CHEA recognition, they will confirm the accrediting organization's continuing eligibility for CHEA recognition.~~

23. (formerly 30) OBSERVATION VISITS. During a recognition review, CHEA conducts
~~The Committee will require that during the recognition review there be an observation~~
visit to a decision-making meeting of the accrediting organization. The purposes of the
visit are (1) to review observe the accrediting organization's application of its standards
and policies, including those related to institution and program performance, and
decision-making activities ~~as these related~~ to the CHEA eligibility and recognition
standards, and (2) to report relevant information to the Committee. The observation visit
includes attention to deliberations concerning policies, procedures and standards and to
decisions on accreditation status. The visit may include experts in areas where
additional focus is needed, as determined by CHEA, with such experts' findings included
as part of the observation visit report. CHEA may elect to survey a sample of the
institutions or programs that, at the time of an observation visit, are under review and
may request to observe an on-site evaluation.

Observers and experts are Visitor(s), identified by CHEA staff and satisfactory to
~~the Committee, will be~~ chosen by CHEA in consultation with the accrediting organization.
The accrediting organization ~~has will have~~ the opportunity to review the any visit report
and ~~provide attach~~ comments. The full report of any visit, with comments from the
accrediting organization, is will be distributed to the Committee. CHEA deems rReports
of observation visits ~~are expected to be~~ confidential to CHEA and the accrediting
organization unless otherwise, in CHEA's judgment, required by law.

24. (formerly 27) COSTS. Accrediting Applicant organizations ~~will~~ bear all fees and
costs ~~for of~~ the recognition review and observation visit expenses. ~~These include a fee~~
~~for the review, observation visit expenses, duplication, mailing, and all related costs.~~

25. (formerly 28) PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PENDING RECOGNITION REVIEW
AND CALL FOR THIRD-PARTY COMMENT. Upon confirmation of eligibility and payment
~~of the review fee,~~ CHEA ~~will make~~s public through its Website -CHEA publications that
the accrediting organization has undertaken requested a recognition review. The CHEA

public notice also calls for third-party comments and identifies the period during which third-party comment will be received, sent to the accrediting organization for publication. The accrediting organization is required to (A) publicize (using the CHEA public notice statement) that the organization has asked CHEA to conduct a recognition review and the time period during which CHEA will receive third-party comments about the organization's recognition review and (B) inform CHEA staff of compliance with this requirement will also announce the date and location of the accrediting organization's public presentation to the Committee.

~~29. **SELF-EVALUATION.** A self-evaluation that demonstrates that the applicant meets the six standards set forth in Paragraph 12A through Paragraph 12F is required for CHEA recognition. CHEA will consider a range of processes for conducting the self-evaluation and for providing expected evidence.~~

~~26. **(formerly 31) THIRD-PARTY WRITTEN OR ORAL COMMENT.** The substance of tThird-party comment may be either oral or written and is limited to whether the accrediting organization's efforts to meet the CHEA recognition standards. All third parties requesting the opportunity to make written comment related to an accrediting organization's recognition review are to notify CHEA staff and provide the text of the comment, including the names and affiliations of the person(s) making the comment, by the announced deadline. requesting the opportunity to make third-party comment and a description of the organization(s) they represent. After review by CHEA staff for confirmation that the comment addresses the recognition standards, written comment will be provided to the Committee and the accrediting organization. Accrediting organizations will have the opportunity to review and respond, which response will be provided to the Committee. will review third-party requests for oral or written comment for completeness and applicability to eligibility and recognition standards.~~

Oral comment is heard by the Committee in public session. CHEA staff will notify all concerned parties of the location, date and time of the accrediting organization's public presentation to the Committee where third-party oral comment may also be given. Third parties who wish to give oral comment shall provide an outline of the proposed comment, including the name and affiliation of the person(s) making the comment, by the announced deadline. After review by CHEA staff for confirmation that the comment addresses the recognition standards, CHEA staff will forward the outline to the Committee and the accrediting organization. At the public meeting, the accrediting organization will have the opportunity to respond.

~~Third parties who wish to appear for oral comment before the CHEA Committee on Recognition are to provide an outline of the proposed oral comment. Where in the judgment of the Committee doing so may be useful, the Committee may invite third parties to appear before the Committee. The accrediting organization will receive the outline of the proposed oral comment of third parties invited to appear. Accrediting organizations will have the opportunity to review and respond to proposed oral comment.~~

~~Third parties wishing to make written comment are to provide the text of the third-party comment. After review by CHEA staff, written comment will be provided to the~~

~~Committee and the accrediting organization. Accrediting organizations will have the opportunity to review and respond to written comment.~~

~~Third parties are to provide an outline of their oral comment or the text of their written comment in sufficient time to provide for review by CHEA staff, review and response by the accrediting organization, and for the outline or text to be provided to the Committee.~~

~~CHEA staff will notify all concerned parties of the location, date, and time of the public presentation.~~

27. (formerly 32) ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION PUBLIC PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE. The Committee will hold a public meeting at which the accrediting organization, ~~and, where applicable, third parties that have met the requirements of Paragraph 31 above~~ may make an oral presentations concerning the qualifications of the accrediting organization for CHEA recognition and how the accrediting organization meets the recognition standards. Ordinarily, the accrediting organization is expected to be represented by the executive officer of the accrediting unit and the chair of the decision-making body. Committee members may ask questions of the accrediting organization and third parties, if any. Persons questioned who will be given have an opportunity to respond. If, in the judgment of the Committee, participation by observation visitors or experts would be useful, the Committee may ask such persons ~~observation visitors~~ to attend and respond to questions related to the visit report. The accrediting organization will be given ~~have the~~ opportunity to respond to any observation visitor or expert comment. The Committee will make a transcript of the public meeting and will provide it to the accrediting organization upon request. ~~The accrediting organization should ordinarily be represented by the executive officer of the accrediting unit and the chair of the decision-making body.~~

Consideration of change in the CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation and interim reports and other responses to requests for additional information are reviewed in executive session and do not require a public presentation by the accrediting organization.

28. COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS, COMMITTEE AND BOARD CONSULTATION. For applications for recognition, following the public presentation, the Committee meets in executive session to consider the qualifications of the accrediting organization for recognition. The Board then meets in executive session with the Chair of the Committee to consider the Committee's preliminary analysis.

29. (formerly 33) COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ACTION ON APPLICATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OR CHANGE OF RECOGNIZED SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION. For applications for recognition, ~~Following the Board meeting, public presentation by the accrediting organization,~~ the Committee will meets, reviews the Board's informal feedback and makes a recommendation for Board action which may include: ~~in executive session to confirm the continuing eligibility of the accrediting organization and consider the qualifications of the accrediting organization for CHEA recognition based on the record before the Committee. For applications for change of recognized scope of accreditation, the Committee will review the application materials~~

submitted by the accrediting organization. The Committee will take one of the following actions concerning the accrediting organization:

- A. ~~recommend r~~Recognition or acceptance of change of recognized scope of accreditation of the accrediting organization.;
- B. ~~recommend r~~Recognition or acceptance of change of recognized scope of accreditation of the an accrediting organization with a requirement of one or more written reports to the Committee that address issues identified in relation to one or more of the CHEA recognition standards and, if pertinent, the change of CHEA recognized scope of accreditation procedures.;
- C. ~~recommend d~~Deferral of action on recognition ~~or on change of recognized scope of accreditation~~ pending receipt and review of, and action by CHEA on, additional information from the accrediting organization. The information required will be clearly specified by the Committee and related to one or more of the ~~six CHEA~~ recognition standards, and, if pertinent, the CHEA change of recognized scope of accreditation. The deferral will be accompanied by deadlines for receipt of information and for a response by the Committee.;
- ~~D. recommend d~~Denial of recognition, ~~or of change of recognized scope of accreditation,~~ including reason(s) for the denial, ~~in accordance with applicable CHEA policy.~~
- E. Withdrawal of recognition as a consequence of situations that have been addressed per Paragraph 18; or
- F. Such other action as the Committee deems appropriate.

30. (formerly 34) WRITTEN NOTICE BY THE COMMITTEE. Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Committee meeting, ~~t~~The Committee will notify the accrediting organization of the Committee's recommendation, ~~related to the actions described in Paragraph 33, and provide the complete text of the Committee's recommendation, including a statement of the reasons for its recommendation.~~ If the Committee finds that an accrediting organization does not meet one or more of the recognition standards, the notice statement of reasons will identify the recognition standard(s) that the accrediting organization does not meet and the reason(s) for that determination. ~~If a change of recognized scope of accreditation is not recommended, the complete text of the Committee's recommendation, including the reasons for the recommendation, will be provided.~~ Any suggestions for improvement or other commentary by the Committee will be distinguished from requirements for recognition under the CHEA recognition standards. ~~Notification to the accrediting organization will be sent within thirty (30) days following the Committee meeting.~~

31. (formerly 35) ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION. An The accrediting organization wishing to respond to the Committee's recommendation must do so will forward its written response to the CHEA office within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of from receipt of the formal notification of the Committee's recommendation report. The accrediting organization's

922 written response, if any, will be provided to the Board and to the Committee. The scope
923 of the response is limited to may:

- 924 A. Information in the record before the Committee at the time of review;
925 address any asserted procedural errors in the recognition process;
926 B. address Any asserted procedural factual errors or errors of
927 interpretation in the recognition process report; and
928 C. Any asserted factual errors include additional information that
929 addresses concerns raised by the Committee.

930 The accrediting organization has a right to appear before the Board only in the
931 case of a recommendation to deny recognition.

932 **32. (formerly 36) REVIEW BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board ~~of Directors~~ will act
933 on a recommendation of the Committee ~~as to eligibility, recognition, or change of~~
934 ~~recognized scope of accreditation~~ by:

- 935 A. Accepting the recommendation;
936 B. Rejecting the recommendation;
937 C. Returning the matter to the Committee for further consideration; or
938 D. Taking such other action as the Board of Directors deems
939 appropriate.

940 Except for actions to deny recognition, the Board may take any of the above
941 actions without further submission or appearance by the accrediting organization.

942 **33. (formerly 37) PRESUMPTION OF REGULARITY.** In ~~addressing considering~~ the
943 ~~eligibility, recognition, or change of recognized scope of accreditation~~ of an accrediting
944 organization, the Board ~~of Directors~~ will consider the preliminary analysis and
945 recommendation of the Committee, the response, if any, of the accrediting organization,
946 and the record before the Committee. The Board ~~of Directors~~ will presume that the
947 ~~factual~~ findings of the Committee are accurate unless the accrediting organization
948 demonstrates to the Board's satisfaction that a ~~factual~~ finding material to the
949 Committee's recommendation is clearly erroneous based on the record before the
950 Committee at the time of the Committee review.

951 In making a decision, the Board may consider and include in its findings If the
952 accrediting organization wishes to provide additional information that may be available
953 apart from the Committee's review, including the work of outside experts the Board may
954 retain. concerning any factual determinations of the Committee, the Board of Directors
955 may return the matter to the Committee for further consideration.

956 **34. (formerly 41) WRITTEN NOTICE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board ~~of~~
957 ~~Directors~~ will notify an accrediting organizations of its action on the recommendations of
958 the Committee as to ~~eligibility, recognition, or change of recognized scope of~~

959 ~~accreditation~~, within thirty (30) calendar days after taking such action. If the Board of
960 ~~Directors~~ recognizes an accrediting organization, the notice will specify the ~~scope of the~~
961 accrediting organization's CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation, the period of
962 recognition and any requirement of one or more written reports. ~~recognition (including,~~
963 ~~where indicated, the geographic area, the types of higher education institutions or~~
964 ~~programs that the accrediting organization may accredit, and the degrees and~~
965 ~~certificates awarded by higher education institutions accredited by the accrediting~~
966 ~~organization) and the recognition period.~~ If the action is to defer, deny or withdraw
967 eligibility, recognition, or change of the recognized scope of accreditation of the
968 accrediting organization, the notice will reference include a statement of the reason(s) for
969 that action. The statement of reasons will identify the ~~eligibility or~~ recognition
970 standard(s) that the accrediting organization does not meet ~~or the reasons that the~~
971 ~~change of recognized scope of accreditation is not accepted.~~

972 35. (formerly 38) ACTIONS TO ACCEPT OR DEFERRAL OF ACTION ON
973 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY, RECOGNITION, OR CHANGE OF RECOGNIZED
974 SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION. There can be only one deferral of action in the course of a
975 recognition review. The Committee will review the information provided by the
976 accrediting organization and make a recommendation to the Board.

977 An accrediting organization that has been deferred for action on an application for
978 recognition shall respond to the Board's notice within one year after the date of the
979 Board action. In exceptional circumstances, the accrediting organization may request an
980 extension of the time allowed for responding to the deferral of action on recognition.
981 The Committee will consider the request and supporting rationale and determine
982 whether an extension is warranted. Unless an extension has been granted, the Board
983 will deem the accrediting organization to have withdrawn its application if the accrediting
984 organization does not respond to the deferral of action within one year of the Board
985 decision. CHEA will notify the accrediting organization that its application is withdrawn.

986 ~~The Board of Directors may accept or defer action on a recommendation of the~~
987 ~~Committee that an accrediting organization be deemed eligible, be recognized, or change~~
988 ~~its recognized scope of accreditation. The Board will take such action without any~~
989 ~~submission to, or appearance before, the Board by the accrediting organization,~~
990 ~~provided that the Board in its sole discretion may request such submission and/or~~
991 ~~appearance to assist the Board in determining whether the accrediting organization~~
992 ~~continues to be eligible.~~

993 36. (formerly 39) ACTIONS TO DENY ELIGIBILITY, RECOGNITION, OR CHANGE OF
994 RECOGNIZED SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION. The Board of Directors will not act on a
995 recommendation to deny recognition of ineligibility, or non-recognition, or denial of
996 change of recognized scope of accreditation or reject a recommendation of eligibility, of
997 recognition, or of change of recognized scope of accreditation before providing the
998 accrediting organization with notice and an opportunity to appear before the Board of
999 Directors. The appearance of an accrediting organization will include an opportunity to
1000 present its written response to the recommendation of the Committee and any
1001 supplement to that response that the accrediting organization may wish to submit. At
1002 the request of the accrediting organization, and with the concurrence of the Board of

~~Directors~~, the accrediting organization will be afforded the opportunity to appear in person before the Board ~~of Directors~~. The appearance of an accrediting organization will include an opportunity to present its written response to the recommendation of the Committee as provided in Paragraph 31. The response is limited to information available to the Committee at the time of Committee review. The accrediting organization may have legal counsel present to advise it during its appearance before the Board ~~of Directors~~, but counsel may not ~~to~~ speak unless requested to do so by the Board ~~of Directors~~.

37. (formerly 44) WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION BY CHEA. The Board CHEA may withdraw recognition of an accrediting organization for ~~sufficient~~ cause the Board deems sufficient, including a determination ~~by CHEA~~ that the accrediting organization no longer meets one or more of the requirements for eligibility or the standards for recognition standards. CHEA will withdraw recognition in accordance with procedures deemed sufficient by CHEA to afford the accrediting organization appropriate notice and opportunity to respond.

38. (formerly 42) RECONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the receipt of the notification of the action taken by the Board, ~~of Directors on a recommendation by the Committee~~, the accrediting organization may request, in writing, reconsideration by the Board ~~of Directors~~. The Board ~~of Directors~~ will determine in its discretion whether reconsideration is warranted, and The Board ordinarily will not reconsider an action matter unless, in its judgment, the accrediting organization has submitted in writing has demonstrated substantial reason to believe that there was plain and material error in the review, abuse of process, or both. In the event the Board ~~of Directors decides to~~ reconsiders an action, the accrediting organization will be invited to submit a written statement of its position and will be afforded the opportunity to appear in person before the Board, and may have legal counsel present to advise it during its appearance before the Board ~~of Directors~~, but counsel may not ~~to~~ speak unless requested to do so by the Board ~~of Directors~~.

39. (formerly 43) PUBLIC NOTICE. All actions decisions of the Board ~~of Directors~~ to recognize, ~~not recognize, or defer, deny or withdraw~~ recognition of an accrediting organization, including initial and continued recognition of accrediting organizations, ~~and change of recognized scope of accreditation~~, will be public information after such actions become final. CHEA will publish the action of the Board ~~of Directors~~, including a summary of the reason(s) for ~~these~~ decisions to recognize, deny or withdraw recognition.

40. (currently 40) APPLICATION AFTER DENIAL OR WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION. An accrediting organization that has ~~previously~~ sought CHEA recognition and has been unsuccessful ~~may not cannot~~ reapply until at least one full year from the date of ~~official~~ denial or withdrawal of recognition ~~by the CHEA Board of Directors~~.

~~If 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

~~45. COMMUNICATION AND MEETING WITH CHEA. In the event that one or more accredited institutions or programs of an organization are experiencing a major difficulty, CHEA may request to meet with the accrediting organization to obtain more information.~~

41. ~~(formerly 46)~~ **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.** CHEA upholds the principle that members of the Committee, ~~and~~ the Board ~~of Directors~~, and consultants, such as readers, ~~and~~ observation site visitors ~~and experts~~ (collectively, for purposes of this ~~P~~paragraph, "CHEA representatives"), will be impartial and objective in considering the ~~eligibility and~~ recognition of accrediting organizations.

A. When there is an actual or apparent conflict of interest, CHEA expects its representatives to recuse themselves ~~as a matter of personal and professional integrity~~ from consideration of an accrediting organization as a matter of personal and professional integrity. The CHEA representative will have primary responsibility for compliance with this policy.

B. CHEA representatives will recuse themselves from consideration of an accrediting organization ~~applying for CHEA recognition~~ where the CHEA representative receives monetary compensation from the accrediting organization as an employee or consultant or otherwise, or holds a position of authority or governance role with the accrediting organization, such as commission member, director, or officer, whether paid or unpaid.

C. In deciding whether to recuse themselves from consideration of an accrediting organization, addressing conflicts of interest, CHEA representatives will take into account whether they (i) had in the recent past, or expect to have, a financial relationship or governance role with the accrediting organization applying for ~~CHEA~~ recognition; (ii) are participating in an accreditation review by the accrediting organization applying for applicant for CHEA recognition; (iii) have a financial relationship or governance role with an accrediting organization that is a direct competitor of an accrediting organization applying applicant for ~~CHEA~~ recognition; (iv) have or have expressed a predisposition concerning an accrediting organization applying applicant for ~~CHEA~~ recognition that would impair objectivity in the recognition process; (v) have a close relative with a pertinent relationship, role, or predisposition concerning an accrediting organization applying applicant for ~~CHEA~~ recognition; and (vi) other considerations they deem pertinent.

D. In the event a CHEA representative, with respect to an apparent or actual conflict of interest, does not voluntarily recuse himself or herself, the Board ~~of Directors~~ may take such action as the Board ~~of Directors~~ considers appropriate.

1088 **42. (formerly 47) PERSONAL GAIN.** In the course of their CHEA service, CHEA
1089 representatives will observe high standards of personal integrity. For example, CHEA
1090 representatives will not solicit or accept, for themselves or any other person, gifts,
1091 gratuities, entertainment, loans, or other consideration from persons who are associated
1092 with an accrediting organization applying applicant for CHEA recognition, an institution
1093 or program accredited by the accrediting organization applicant, a direct competitor of
1094 the accrediting organization an applicant, or any other third party that the CHEA
1095 representative knows intends to comment on the accrediting organization applicant in
1096 the recognition review; provided that this ~~P~~paragraph does not bar acceptance of items
1097 of insubstantial value, consistent with personal integrity, in the ordinary course of
1098 service as a CHEA representative.

1099 **43. (formerly 48) COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFIDENTIALITY.** CHEA representatives
1100 will maintain the confidentiality of information pertaining to the recognition process.
1101 During the recognition process, a CHEA representative will not discuss any confidential
1102 aspect of an application for CHEA recognition with the accrediting organization applying
1103 for recognition, applicant, an institution or program accredited by the accrediting
1104 organization, applicant, a direct competitor of the accrediting organization applicant, or
1105 any other third party that intends to comment on the accrediting organization, applicant,
1106 except as required in order to discharge the responsibilities of the CHEA representative
1107 in the recognition review. CHEA representatives will refer inquiries concerning the
1108 recognition process to CHEA staff. CHEA will communicate the
1109 results of the recognition review to the accrediting organization applicant and the public
1110 as provided in Paragraphs 3441 and 3943.

1111 AMENDMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

1112 **44. (formerly 49) AMENDMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.** CHEA reserves the right to
1113 amend this *Recognition Policy and Procedures*, in whole or part, from time to time,
1114 when, in its judgment, the interests of sound and reliable accreditation, recognition of
1115 accreditors, or CHEA administration are served by doing so. Revisions of the CHEA
1116 Recognition Policy and Procedures are effective at such date as the Board sets and
1117 implemented based on a timeframe established by CHEA.

Appendix A

Accreditation Defined

Accreditation in higher education is defined as a collegial process based on self- and peer assessment for public accountability and improvement of academic quality. Peers assess the quality of an institution or academic program and assist the faculty and staff in improvement. An accreditation of an academic program or an entire institution typically involves three major activities:

- The faculty, administrators, and staff of the institution or academic program conduct a self-study using the accrediting organization's set of expectations about quality (standards, criteria) as their guide.
- A team of peers, selected by the accrediting organization, reviews the evidence, visits the campus to interview the faculty and staff, and writes a report of its assessment, including a recommendation to the commission of the accrediting organization (group of peer faculty and staff, professionals, and public members).
- Guided by a set of expectations about quality and integrity, the commission reviews the evidence and recommendation, makes a judgment, and communicates the decision to the institution and other constituencies if appropriate.

Accreditation is an integral part of our system of higher education. Our system consists of both public and private institutions with a wide range of types of missions, from national research universities and regional comprehensive institutions to liberal arts colleges and very small faith-related colleges to community colleges and vocational institutions. The genius of this system is that, unlike other countries, we do not have mandatory national curricula for colleges; we do not have a national ministry of education that regulates academic standards; and students are free to choose the type of education that they pursue, depending on their ability, financial resources, and educational goals. Because it developed from this diverse set of institutions, accreditation is a flexible and adaptive process. Institutions that seek accreditation can do so from a wide range of accrediting organizations—from national bodies that are oriented to a particular type of institution, to regional organizations that encompass a wide range of types of institutions, to specialized organizations that focus on a single discipline or profession.

Appendix B

Institutional Eligibility and Recognition Policy¹

~~The Council for Higher Education Accreditation will serve students and their families, colleges and universities, sponsoring bodies, governments, and employers by promoting academic quality through formal recognition of higher education accrediting bodies and will coordinate and work to advance self-regulation through accreditation.~~

~~The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) invites participation by degree-granting institutions of higher education that are accredited by a CHEA-recognized accreditation organization.~~

~~The goals of CHEA recognition are to advance quality assurance through accreditation to serve students and their families, colleges and universities, sponsoring bodies, governments, and employers. All eligible organizations must meet the general standards enunciated in this recognition process. The recognition process will place increasing emphasis on the effectiveness of accreditation organizations in assuring the academic quality of institutions and programs through standards, policies, and procedures that address appropriate rigor, degree nomenclature, and at the undergraduate level, a general education program designed to ensure breadth of knowledge and at all levels, advanced intellectual inquiry.~~

~~Recognition will be determined in accordance with established standards and rules of good practice that ensure fair treatment, promotion and maintenance of academic quality, and respect for institutional autonomy.~~

~~Organizations that accredit institutions will be eligible to apply for recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation if the majority of their accredited institutions are degree-granting. Organizations that accredit programs will be eligible to apply for recognition by CHEA if the majority of the accredited programs are degree-granting. An accreditation organization is responsible for providing assurance of the percentage of degree-granting units within its constituency and demonstrating its general support with the goals of CHEA recognition.*~~

~~¹In pursuit of its mission to advance higher education, and in light of knowledge and experience, CHEA reserves the right to amend the foregoing and/or grant recognition to such accrediting entities that in CHEA's judgment warrant such recognition.~~

~~*Policy approved by the CHEA Board of Directors on May 12, 1997.~~

Appendix G

Steps in Recognition Review

The sequence of recognition review will normally be as follows:

- Accrediting organization files letter of intent and review fee to apply for CHEA recognition.
- CHEA sends accrediting organization recognition review materials.
- Accrediting organization returns eligibility portion of application to CHEA.
- Committee makes recommendation on eligibility for Board of Directors' consideration and notifies accrediting organization.
- Board of Directors considers Committee recommendation on eligibility and, if indicated by CHEA *Recognition Policy and Procedures*, provides accrediting organization with opportunity to appear before the Board.
- CHEA and accrediting organization mutually agree on visitor(s) and schedule for observation visit to be carried out during the recognition review.
- Accrediting organization completes recognition self-evaluation and forwards to CHEA staff. If requested by the accrediting organization, CHEA staff will provide consultation.
- Observation visit reports are due in CHEA office and forwarded to accrediting organization for comment.
- Third party comment, if any, is due in CHEA office and forwarded for comment to accrediting organization as indicated by CHEA *Recognition Policy and Procedures*.
- Accrediting organization's response to observation visit reports and thirdparty comment is due in CHEA office. Accrediting organization response and recognition self-evaluation are forwarded to Committee.
- Accrediting organization makes public presentation to Committee, Committee sends recommendation on recognition to Board of Directors, and Committee notifies accrediting organization of recommendation.
- Accrediting organization response, if any, is due to Committee.
- Board of Directors considers Committee recommendation and, if necessary, provides accrediting organization opportunity to appear before the Board.
- Board of Directors reconsiders recognition, if requested.

In developing the schedule, CHEA staff will make reasonable accommodations for the accrediting organization's internal review procedures pertinent to the recognition process.

Appendix AD

Glossary for CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures

Note to all Users: This Glossary defines key terms in the *CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*. The definitions apply only to the *Recognition Policy and Procedures* and are not intended for use with any other statement or policy.

Academic Quality: The achievement of the results associated with teaching, learning, research, and service, within the context of institutional or program mission including the integrated way in which learning, practice and discovery are fostered by institutions and programs. Intellectual rigor, honesty and integrity, as well as the thoughtful linking of mission and goals to pathways toward achieving those goals, are critical characteristics of academic quality. Academic quality includes the nature of the expectations institutions or programs have of their students, and the attention, expertise, and effort those institutions and programs give to engendering student success.

Accountability: The responsibility of an accrediting organization to (1) have standards, policies, and or procedures that required accredited institutions and programs to provide, at a minimum, readily accessible, accurate, and consistent aggregate information to the public about institutional or program performance, academic quality and student achievement, and the reasons for accreditation decisions; and (2) make its accreditation standards, policies, processes and decision-making outcomes readily accessible to the public, and for the accrediting organization to provide information about accreditation processes and results.

Accreditation: A collegial process based on self- and peer review for quality assurance, accountability, and improvement of academic quality in higher education.

Accreditation Action: The decision made by the accrediting organization, as the result of an institution or program review, to grant, reaffirm, deny, withdraw, or defer accreditation, or to impose notice, warning, show cause, or probation status.

Accreditation Status: The decision made by the accrediting organization as a result of a review of an institution or program that identifies the level of accreditation granted to an of the institution or program by the accrediting organization as a result of a review, including the period of time the accreditation is expected to be in effect. Such status

1262 may include, but is not limited to, ,e.g., candidacy, candidate, pre-accreditation,
1263 accreditation, accredited, denial, probationary accreditation, provisional accreditation,
1264 or other classification defined in the accrediting organization's policy termination,
1265 withdrawal, suspension.

1266 **Accrediting Organization:** A private, non-governmental association organized to
1267 evaluate institutions or programs and render judgments about the accredited status
1268 of the institution or program.

1269 **Change of Recognized Scope of Accreditation:** A change in the range of
1270 accreditation activities, e.g., type of program or institution, geography, level of
1271 degrees, by a CHEA-recognized accrediting organization where the organization has
1272 completed the CHEA change of scope process.

1273 **Committee Action:** Recommendations about eligibility, recognition, or change of
1274 recognized scope of accreditation made by the CHEA Committee on Recognition to
1275 the CHEA Board of Directors.

1276 **Conflict of Interest:** A set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional
1277 judgment or actions may be inappropriately influenced. A conflict of interest
1278 includes all significant conflicts of interest, financial and other, and is deemed to
1279 exist if reasonable observers, having knowledge of all the relevant circumstances,
1280 would conclude that the individual has an actual or apparent conflict of interest in the
1281 matter.

1282 **Conflict of Interest Policy:** CHEA's procedures to provide that its representatives are
1283 impartial and objective in considering the eligibility and recognition of accrediting
1284 organizations.

1285 **Deferral:** Decision to postpone action on an eligibility, recognition, or change of scope
1286 application until receipt of additional information.

1287 **Eligibility Standards:** Requirements set by CHEA that an accrediting organization must
1288 meet in order to be considered for recognition.

1289 **Favorable Action:** Approval of CHEA eligibility, recognition or change of recognized
1290 scope of accreditation of an accrediting organization as determined by the CHEA Board
1291 of Directors.

1292 **Institutions and Programs:** Colleges, universities, and if and to the extent permitted by
1293 CHEA, other degree-granting providers (i.e., organizations or other entities, other than
1294 colleges or university, which offer degrees at the associate or higher level upon
1295 completion of educational activities).

1296 ~~Letter of Intent: Formal statement submitted by the chief executive officer of an~~
1297 ~~accrediting organization to CHEA stating interest in pursuing eligibility, recognition, or~~
1298 ~~change of recognized scope of accreditation.~~

1299 ~~Major Changes: Examples include opening an international operation, change in~~
1300 ~~affiliation with parent or sponsoring organization, change in legal status, change in~~
1301 ~~review process, e.g., replace site visit with online review.~~
1302

1303 ~~Major Difficulty: Examples include public sanctions against an institution or program;~~
1304 ~~serious legal, financial, or ethical investigations; a public and divisive controversy.~~
1305 ~~“Major difficulty” does not refer to accreditation decisions.~~
1306

1307 ~~Non-governmental: The status of an accrediting organization as a privately~~
1308 ~~incorporated organization.~~

1309 ~~Observation Visit: A visit by CHEA representatives to a meeting of an accrediting~~
1310 ~~organization decision-making body during a recognition review.~~

1311 ~~Readily Accessible: The ease with which information provided on institution or~~
1312 ~~program or accrediting organization Websites can be identified, located and obtained by~~
1313 ~~the public. Ease of access includes obvious and accurate labeling of links to pertinent~~
1314 ~~information, no required self-identification or membership, and as few steps as~~
1315 ~~possible needed to access the information.~~

1316 ~~Recognition or Recognized: The status granted by the CHEA Board of Directors after~~
1317 ~~an accrediting organization successfully completes the CHEA recognition review~~
1318 ~~process.~~

1319 ~~Recognition Standards: The basis on which CHEA considers an application for~~
1320 ~~recognition and renders its decision.~~

1321 ~~Reconsideration: Review by the CHEA Board of Directors of its decision to deny or~~
1322 ~~remove eligibility or recognition.~~

1323 ~~Self-Evaluation: The accrediting organization’s review of its accrediting activities in~~
1324 ~~relation to the CHEA eligibility and recognition standards during its recognition review.~~

1325 ~~Sponsoring Organization: An organization with a direct or indirect affiliation or~~
1326 ~~agreement, including any management or financial or other oversight capacity, with the~~
1327 ~~accrediting organization. Such organizations may not limit, influence, or control~~
1328 ~~development of accreditation standards, policies or procedures, conduct of~~
1329 ~~accreditation reviews, functions or operations or determination of accreditation status.~~

1330 ~~Student Achievement: Student performance as determined by an institution or program~~
1331 ~~in keeping with the institution or program mission.~~

1332 ~~Third-Party Comment: Oral or written statements of parties (other than CHEA and the~~
1333 ~~applicant) seeking to address an accrediting organization's efforts to meet CHEA's~~
1334 ~~recognition standards.~~

1335
1336 ~~Transparency: Public accessibility to information about the accreditation process, the~~
1337 ~~results of accreditation reviews, and student achievement.~~
1338

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