

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting

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May 4, 1998 Washington, DC

Members Present: Chair Robert Glidden, Vice Chair Gordon Haaland, Treasurer Ira Lechner, Eleanor Baum, Barbara Brittingham, John Casteen, William DeLauder, Alfredo G. de los Santos Jr., Edward Donley, Dolores Sandoval.

Members absent: Vera King Farris, Zelema Harris, Thomas Jackson, John Keyser, David Winter.

Staff and consultants present: Judith Eaton, Monica Chestnut, Gregory Fusco, Martin Michaelson, Michael Nugent, Teddi Safman, Steve Viscarra.

Chair Robert Glidden called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

Treasurer's Report

The Board of Directors approved the treasurer's report.

Results of the 1998 CHEA Board Elections

The chair of the 1998 CHEA nominating committee, William DeLauder, reported that the nominating committee recommended the following four sitting board members for additional terms: Eleanor Baum, Dean of Engineering, The Cooper Union; Barbara Brittingham, Dean, College of Human Sciences and Services, University of Rhode Island; Vera King Farris, President, the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; and Robert B. Glidden, President, Ohio University. The committee also recommended Jacquelyn M. Belcher, President, DeKalb College, as the fifth candidate.

The ballots were mailed out to approximately 3600 accredited two- and four-year institutions. A total of 968 ballots were returned by April 27, 1998, representing a 27% response rate. Of the 968 returned ballots, 892 (92%) were in favor of the full slate of candidates. Fifty-six of the ballots represented a mixed slate, and 13 ballots had write-in candidates added. The newly elected board members will begin their terms at the July 1998 board retreat.

Election of 1998-99 Board Officers

The Board of Directors elected officers for 1998-99 as follows: Gordon Haaland, chair; John Casteen, vice chair; Vera King Farris, secretary; and Ira Lechner, treasurer. Alfredo de los Santos Jr. will serve on the executive committee as an at large member and Robert Glidden will serve on the executive committee as immediate past chair.

Amendment of CHEA Bylaws

At its February 1998 meeting, the Board of Directors revised the CHEA bylaws to state that the CHEA annual meeting would be held in May of each year. The Board of Directors acted to reinstate the language of the original CHEA bylaws, noting such language would be consistent with the board's intention that the annual meeting be held in May.

Preliminary Workplan and Budget 1998-99

CHEA President Eaton presented the preliminary workplan and budget for 1998-99. The workplan emphasizes two major areas as central to accreditation: defining quality as results, and quality assurance in emerging distance learning programs and institutions. The 1998-99 preliminary budget for CHEA assumes

revenues of \$1.5 million and expenditures of \$1.5 million. The executive committee approved the 1998-99 preliminary budget and workplan. Staff will bring the final budget to the board for action at the July 1998 meeting.

Specialized Advisory Panel

At its February 1998 meeting, the board approved the appointment of six members to the Specialized Accrediting Association Advisory Panel. President Eaton recommended the appointment of a seventh member, Donald G. Kassebaum, M.D., co-secretary, Liaison Committee on Medical Education, to the specialized advisory panel. The board approved the appointment effective May 4, 1998 - December 31, 2000.

Government Relations

Gregory Fusco, CHEA's consultant on external relations, presented a status report on the CHEA government relations initiatives and the progress of the pending Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization. He stressed the broad approach of his work to build long-term capacity of CHEA to succeed in government relations, and linked the effort to three key CHEA purposes:

- advocacy,
- relationship-building, and
- member service.

In the eight months since President Eaton and Mr. Fusco came to CHEA, progress has been made in all three areas.

Regarding the HEA, Mr. Fusco reviewed and updated the contents of his April 16 "[HEA Scorecard](#)" memorandum, which was distributed to the board and is available on the CHEA Homepage. Significant progress has been made on most of CHEA's initial goals for this legislation, and some proposals CHEA opposed have been eliminated as the bill moves through Congress. CHEA has also mobilized and engaged key allies in associations and among accreditors and selected institutions to build support for voluntary accreditation in the Congress. CHEA has helped shape HEA provisions important to accreditation on distance education, reduction of government control, refund policies, tribal colleges, and teacher preparation. Mr. Fusco urged everyone to utilize the CHEA homepage (<http://www.chea.org>) to keep abreast of important legislative developments. He concluded by emphasizing the uncertainties of the legislative process, and that CHEA must continue to work hard on the HEA bill and beyond.

Enhancing Usefulness Conference

Vice president for accreditation services Teddi Safman briefed the board on the two-day Conference "Enhancing The Usefulness Of Accreditation in a Changing Environment," to be held June 25-26, 1998, in Washington, D.C. This conference will set a context for change in accreditation review and include attention to a good practices database, new inter-organizational models, and common data elements, all promising to enhance the usefulness of accreditation. Questions to be addressed are:

- Can good practices be used for accrediting distance education?;
- What challenges surround the use of inter-organizational models in accreditation?;
- What are the incentives/disincentives for using inter-organizational models?;
- Are IPEDS definitions adequate for common data sets?; and,
- Who benefits and how from the use of common data sets?

Additional information on this conference as well as registration forms can be found at the CHEA website, <http://www.chea.org>.

Discussions with Presidential Associations

The CHEA board invited members of the presidential associations to discuss with them key issues in accreditation. Representatives included Stanley Ikenberry, President, American Council on Education (ACE); David Warren, President the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU); and Jennifer Wingard, Director, Urban and Academic Programs, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

CHEA Baseline Survey Findings

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation conducted a baseline survey of constituent needs and interests in December 1997. The survey was conducted by MGT of America, Inc., a research firm based in Tallahassee, Florida. Dan Layzell, Senior Associate, MGT of America, presented the findings to the board.

CHEA Quality Assurance and Distance Education Study

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation contracted with the Institute for Higher Education Policy in Washington, D.C. to conduct a study of quality assurance strategies in distance education during late 1997 and early 1998. Jane Wellman and Ronald Phipps, Senior Associates of the Institute, presented an overview of the study to the board.