



**Council for  
Higher Education  
Accreditation**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2004  
WASHINGTON, DC**

### **Summary of Major Actions and Discussion**

*(These are not official minutes of the CHEA Board of Directors)*

Chair Rothkopf called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The board of directors

- Accepted the FY04 third quarter financial report;
- Approved the recommendation of the Reserve and Investment Committee to continue the current purpose, size and investment of the CHEA Reserve Fund;
- Appointed, consistent with board policy, a new external auditor firm to follow the current external auditor firm that has been working with CHEA since FY99; and
- Discussed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and actions that CHEA may undertake in the future.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

##### **Recognition**

As reported by Judith Watkins, Vice President for Accreditation Services, the CHEA Committee on Recognition met on March 7-8, 2004 and reviewed applications from accrediting organizations seeking CHEA recognition.

The board of directors accepted the committee on recognition's recommendations for recognition of the following accrediting organizations:

- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
  - American Podiatric Medical Association  
    Council on Podiatric Medical Education
  - Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology.
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### **Election of 2004-2007 Board Members**

The board of directors elected the following individuals to serve on the CHEA board for 2004-2007:

Michael Adams, President, University of Georgia (GA)\*  
David Boren, President, University of Oklahoma (OK)  
Charles Nash, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Alabama System (AL)\*  
Charles Reed, Chancellor, California State University System (CA)  
Piedad Robertson, Superintendent/President, Santa Monica College (CA)\*  
Richard Traina, Trustee, George I. Alden Trust (MA)\*  
John Wiley, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Madison (WI)

*\*incumbents elected for a second term.*

### **Election of 2004-2007 Board Officers**

The board of directors elected the following slate of officers for 2004-2005:

Richard Traina, Trustee, George I. Alden Trust (MA), *Chair*  
Gregory O'Brien, President, Argosy University (IL), *Vice Chair*  
Charles Nash, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Alabama System (AL),  
*Secretary*  
Piedad Robertson, Superintendent/President, Santa Monica College (CA), *Treasurer*

These officers and Arthur Rothkopf, President, Lafayette College (PA), immediate past chair effective July 1, 2004, will compose the Board Executive Committee.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Recognition Report**

Ron Cowell, chair of the CHEA Committee on Recognition, reported on the status of the revision of the CHEA *Recognition Policy and Procedures*. The committee approved Draft 1 of the revised policy and distributed this to CHEA member institution CEOs and CAOs, accrediting organizations and higher education associations for comment at the end of March 2004. The first comment period ends on May 1. The committee on recognition is hosting an open meeting to discuss Draft 1 on May 12 in Washington, DC. Member institutions, accrediting organizations and interested associations are invited to join the committee to review the policy. Following this meeting and another discussion on Draft 1 at the CHEA Summer Workshop scheduled for July 7-9, 2004 in Washington, DC, the committee will develop a second draft of the policy. Draft 2 will be circulated among CHEA constituents and another open meeting will be held.

At present, CHEA anticipates board action on policy revisions at the January 2005 board meeting.

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## **Government Relations Report**

Gregory Fusco, CHEA Vice President for Government and Public Affairs, reported that the Board had devoted their two-hour working session on April 26 to reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The members reviewed the major events since the last board meeting (January 26): Congressional hearings, the timing for reauthorization, the General Accounting Office (GAO) report on distance education, Senate interest in diploma mills, and a description of the major pending higher education bills and their implications for federal policies regarding accreditation. The board also heard an update on CHEA activities, especially the outreach to institutions, accreditors and associations. The periodic CHEA *HEA Updates* are well received and expand the audience for legislative information on accreditation. Alex Nock of the House Democratic staff of the Committee on Education and the Workforce attended the working session and provided the board with his view of activities in the House, especially with regard to pending legislation.

With regard to the February 2004 report of the GAO on distance education, Mr. Fusco pointed out that it offers far-reaching opinions and policy options regarding accretor use of quantified outcomes measures in distance education. If the GAO suggestions were either put into the federal law or adopted by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) as suggested, the federal demands on institutions and accreditors to quantify student learning outcomes would greatly increase. While the USDE has politely rejected the GAO suggestion at this time, the door remains open for them to embrace it. CHEA and others will need to remain vigilant on this issue.

## **Draft Declaration**

Judith Eaton, president of CHEA, indicated that CHEA has been working with the American Council on Education (ACE), the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the International Association of Universities (IAU) to develop a draft statement on "Sharing Quality Higher Education Across Borders: A Statement on Behalf of Higher Education Institutions Worldwide." This proposed statement is part of an ongoing CHEA effort to assure a strong and thoughtful voice for higher education in an international setting and is presented to the board for information at this time. The draft will be posted on the CHEA Website (and the Websites of the other associations) for comment with the intent of each organization adopting the statement sometime in fall 2004, after modifications based on the comments received.

## **2004-2005 Organizational Goals and Budget**

The board of directors approved the 2004-2005 CHEA organizational goals and budget. The major issues before CHEA in 2004-2005 are reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and review and revision of the CHEA *Recognition Policy and Procedures*. In addition,

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CHEA will focus on three major priorities during the year: (1) accreditation and student learning outcomes, (2) accreditation and responsibilities to the public and (3) accreditation and international quality review.

### **Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC)**

Steve Crow, executive director of the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, reported on the February 10-11, 2004 meeting of C-RAC. He indicated that areas of importance to C-RAC are public disclosure, higher degree levels and a better common understanding of what degree levels mean, student learning outcomes and addressing what is meant by “substantive change.” In this context, Mr. Crow raised the issue of the future of “regionalism.” He also indicated that the seven regional commissions that make up C-RAC were discussing building additional capacity for their organization, perhaps to include incorporation and hiring staff.

### **Specialized/National Advisory Panel (S/NAP)**

Judith Eaton reported for George Peterson, executive director of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. and chair of S/NAP. The panel met on March 23, 2004 and focused on a number of issues, including reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and international quality review. The panel is continuing to explore a modest joint project with the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA), most likely in the area of the cost and value of accreditation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

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**The next meeting of the  
CHEA Board of Directors  
will be held on  
September 20-21, 2004  
in Washington, DC.**

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**CHEA**®

**Council for Higher Education Accreditation**

One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 510 • Washington DC 20036

tel: 202-955-6126 • fax: 202-955-6129

e-mail: [chea@chea.org](mailto:chea@chea.org) • url: <http://www.chea.org>