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December 20, 2018

Karen O'Brien  
Director  
American Library Association Committee on Accreditation  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Karen:

At its November 19-20, 2018 meeting, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition met with representatives of the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-CoA) to discuss the committee's ongoing concerns regarding ALA-CoA's inability to meet CHEA Standards 12A5, 12B1 and 12B5 as outlined in the 2010 *CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*. The committee appreciates the opportunity to meet with you, ALA-CoA Chair Loretta Parham, and ALA Executive Director Mary Ghikas, and considered the time together both productive and informative.

As discussed at the meeting, the committee indicated that additional information regarding the ongoing concerns and how ALA-CoA meets the required CHEA standards is essential. We are including the corresponding standard as identified in the 2019 *CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*.

1. CHEA Standard 12A5 (*new CHEA Standard 10D*): Please submit documentation to support that the proposed reported changes to ALA-CoA policy or procedures and the corresponding references to resources have been both adopted and implemented on or before June 2018 and that these meet CHEA recognition requirements.
2. CHEA Standard 12B1 (*new CHEA Standard 11B1*): The committee is looking to see that all ALA-CoA-accredited programs provide relevant public information regarding program performance, including student achievement. While some program Website information show student achievement data, this was only a small number of the ALA-CoA-accredited programs and Websites. In addition, a number of Websites rely on student survey information and, while useful, this information does not include student achievement information to meet CHEA expectations.

Once again, ALA-CoA is asked to provide links for each of its accredited programs and which lead directly to program-specific performance information, including student achievement, on the accredited program's Website. A link to a general or institutional Website is not acceptable. By way of assistance, the *CHEA Guidelines for Preparation of the Interim Report* (page 8), provided during the interim report process, include suggestions for student outcomes data that might be used: attrition and retention; graduation; licensure pass rates (as applicable); job placement (as

appropriate); employment advancement (as appropriate); acceptance into graduate programs; successful transfer of credit; or other reliable information.

3. CHEA Standard 12B5 (*new CHEA Standard 11A1*): The committee encourages ALA-CoA to provide fuller information regarding its accreditation decision actions and to consider expanding the information currently presented.

The committee did not act on the organization's change of scope request to include international accreditation due to the ongoing issues.

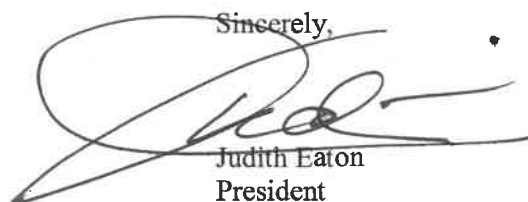
Please note that further extensions or delays will not be granted to ALA-CoA to meet the CHEA standards. Given the committee's ongoing concerns, the committee intends to recommend withdrawal of recognition to the CHEA Board of Directors, per paragraph 44 of the 2010 *CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*, unless ALA-CoA is able to demonstrate at the June 2019 meeting that it meets the CHEA standards noted above.

ALA-CoA has its next Interim Report scheduled for committee consideration in June 2019. In addition, ALA-CoA is to submit its response to the first deadline (April 30, 2019) of the *CHEA Transition Framework*, per the December 11 email communication. Please be advised that the report, along with ALA-CoA's response to the *CHEA Transition Framework*, will not be considered by the committee unless ALA-CoA satisfies the ongoing issues as noted above.

ALA-CoA's response to the ongoing concerns, its interim report and *Framework* response are due by April 30, 2019 for review by the committee at its June 2019 meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the committee action or the recognition process, please contact Thomas J. Cornacchia, Vice President for Recognition Services, at 202.372.9254 or [cornacchia@chea.org](mailto:cornacchia@chea.org).

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Judith Eaton  
President

cc: Mary Ghikas, ALA Executive Director  
Loretta Parham, ALA-CoA Chair  
Thomas J. Cornacchia, Vice President for Recognition Services