
March 30, 2018

Ms. Karen L. O'Brien
Director
American Library Association Committee on Accreditation
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2795

Dear Karen:

At its March 5, 2018 meeting, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition reviewed the Follow-up Report submitted by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-CoA). This is to inform you that the committee acknowledged receipt of the report.

The committee, however, continues to seek evidence that all CHEA recognition standards, as outlined in the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*, are met. Regarding CHEA Standard 12A5, the committee expressed concerns in this regard since it first considered ALA-CoA's interim report at its July 2016 meeting. In addition, although ALA-CoA has been recognized by CHEA since 2013, the committee has, on an ongoing basis, indicated concerns that ALA-CoA still does not comply with CHEA Standards 12B1 and 12B5 and notes that concerns regarding CHEA Standard 12B1 date back to ALA-CoA's 2011 recognition review.

1. CHEA Standard 12B1 calls for the accreditor to have accreditation standards or policies that require institutions or programs routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement, as determined by the institution or program.

The committee noted that ALA-CoA provided links for its accredited programs. The information, however, gave limited evidence that the programs provide student learning outcome data. For a number of the links, student achievement information was difficult to locate and in other instances there was no information regarding student learning outcomes. In other examples the links were inactive. The committee is asking for active program links for all ALA-CoA-accredited programs separated out by each respective academic credential level (e.g., MS, MLS) as well as program area (e.g., Library Science, Information Science).

2. CHEA Standard 12B5 calls for the accreditor to inform the public of the bases and reasons for its final accreditation decisions.

The committee noted that ALA-CoA recently expanded the information provided (e.g., references to standards) for programs required to submit a follow-up report, effective January 2018. However, the committee is calling for fuller information in this regard for all accredited

programs, not only those with a follow-up report or those recently reviewed. Please provide evidence to show ALA-CoA's further implementation of its new practices, including documentation to show that ALA-CoA provides fuller information regarding all accredited programs, including the bases and reasons for these decisions and how these efforts meet CHEA Standard 12B5.

3. Additionally, CHEA Standard 12A5 calls for the accrediting organization to 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.

ALA-CoA submitted information regarding its accreditation policy V.3., citing examples of how programs might meet ALA-CoA's policy V.3. requirements, including references to students. The response did not, however, provide evidence to show a connection between the ALA-CoA standard and the requirements of the CHEA standard regarding resources. The committee is looking for ALA-CoA to provide information to show how ALA-CoA meets CHEA Standard 12A5, including how its policies or procedures address student preparedness or address health and safety in the delivery of the program.


ALA-CoA's response is due on or before May 1, 2018 for review by the committee at its June 2018 meeting.

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 may recommend withdrawal of recognition, per paragraph 44 of the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*, unless ALA-CoA is able to demonstrate at the June 2018 meeting that it meets CHEA Standards 12B1, 12B5 and 12A5.

Lastly, the committee notes that ALA-CoA initially requested to change its currently approved CHEA-recognized scope of accreditation, along with its follow-up report reviewed in June 2017. Given the committee's ongoing concerns regarding ALA-CoA's ability to meet all CHEA standards, the committee, once again, did not act on the scope request and will consider the matter once ALA-CoA satisfies the above-referenced concerns.

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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith Eaton
President

cc: Thomas J. Cornacchia, Vice President for Recognition Services