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August 15, 2016

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

Dear Karen:

At its July 25-26, 2016 meeting, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition reviewed the Interim Report submitted by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-CoA). This is to inform you that the committee received the report.

The committee is also requesting a Follow-up Report that addresses the following issues:

1. The committee is seeking additional information to show that ALA-CoA meets Standard 12.B.1. of the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures* regarding the information to the public on program performance, including student achievement. The committee notes that ALA-CoA provided Website links for its accredited programs; however, only a small number of the Websites showed evidence in this regard, while most others do not. The committee is concerned that the Websites often do not include information on performance, including student achievement. ALA-CoA needs to take immediate steps to assure that its accredited programs provide this information in order to meet CHEA Standard 12.B.1.

Please note that Website links are to 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.

2. The committee is seeking additional information to show that ALA-CoA meets CHEA Standard 12.B.5. of the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*. This standard requires that the accrediting organization provides evidence that it has implemented 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.

The committee is concerned that the reasons and bases for accreditation decisions are difficult to locate when reviewing the ALA-CoA Website in this regard. The committee also would like to see fuller information regarding the reasons and bases for the ALA-CoA accreditation decisions in order to fully meet CHEA Standard 12.B.5. The committee took note that ALA-CoA modified its standards for fuller disclosure regarding the single action of withdrawal and provided links to *PRISM*, the semi-annual newsletter from the Office of Accreditation, and the Reports and Publications section of the ALA-CoA Website, to demonstrate compliance with 12.B.5. However, neither of these steps nor the current information about accreditation decisions fully meet the requirements of 12.B.5.

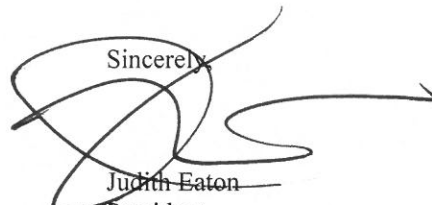
3. The committee is seeking additional information to show that ALA-CoA meets CHEA Standard 12.A.5. of the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*. This standard asks for an accrediting organization to have standards or policies designed to foster desired or needed 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 the programs.

The committee notes that the ALA-CoA Standard V, Administration, Finances, and Resources, section V.3., focuses on resources for administrative personnel and is seeking clarification of how these resources address student preparedness and health and safety, as called for in the CHEA standard.

The Follow-up Report is due on or before March 1, 2017 for review by the committee at its June 2017 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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judith Eaton
President

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