



American Library Association
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July 17, 2012

Judith Eaton
President
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036-1135

Dear Judith:

Thank you for your letter of July 9, 2012 (revised July 12, 2012) regarding the CHEA Committee on Recognition (COR) recommendation to the CHEA Board of Directors that it continue to defer action on reaffirmation of ALA-COA recognition.

In accordance with paragraph 35.B of the 2006 CHEA procedures, I hereby request that the CHEA Board of Directors review the recommendation on the basis of a misinterpretation (or, as stated in your letter, an error of interpretation) of the ALA-COA response of January 13, 2012. This letter serves to clarify that response, which provided evidence of compliance with CHEA Standard 12B.1.

As my email of July 10, 2012 (as referenced in the CHEA July 12, 2012 letter) indicates, the *ongoing* currency of the information being provided publicly by programs is already required by the 2008 ALA Standard IV.2 "Current, accurate and easily accessible information on the school and its program is available to students and the general public. This information includes announcements of program goals and objectives, descriptions of curricula, information on faculty, admission requirements, availability of financial aid, criteria for evaluating student performance, assistance with placement, and other policies and procedures. The school demonstrates that it has procedures to support these policies."

In response to the December 16, 2011, letter from the COR, ALA-COA developed and has implemented a policy-strengthening measure that requires programs to indicate in their biennial reports *where* the information (already required and expected to be current) on their performance is being made publicly available. ALA-COA has not, as the CHEA July letter describes, required "programs to update information provided to the public... on a biennial basis."

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All ALA-COA standards and policies are fully implemented. As I mentioned at the November 2011 meeting with the COR, compliance with ALA standards is verified during comprehensive reviews that occur at least every seven years and in the interim verified through review of annual statistics and biennial narrative report updates. It is perhaps this 'update' aspect of interim reporting that has caused the confusion and misinterpretation of the measure recently taken with the biennial report.

This further clarification is provided with the request that the CHEA Board of Directors now put this matter to rest and reaffirm recognition of the American Library Association without further delay.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Karen L. O'Brien".

Karen L. O'Brien
Director, Office for Accreditation
American Library Association

cc: Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director, American Library Association
Mary Ghikas, Senior Associate Executive Director, American Library Association
Brian Andrew, Chair, Committee on Accreditation, American Library Association
Leah Matthews, Vice President for Recognition Services, Council for Higher Education Accreditation