



Office for Accreditation  
American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795 USA  
Telephone 312-280-2432  
Toll free 800-525-2433 x 2432

Fax 312-280-2433  
TDD 312-944-7298  
Toll free TDD 888-814-7692  
[www.ala.org/accreditation](http://www.ala.org/accreditation)

May 18, 2012

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

Dear Judith:

In anticipation of the June 2012 CHEA Committee on Recognition meeting, I write in further response to your letter of February 2, 2012, which points out that "The ALA-COA may provide the committee on recognition additional documentation to address the issues stated in the December 16, 2011 letter." Cited in that December letter is CHEA standard 12B1.

The ALA-COA has taken measures with policy to strengthen compliance in that regard, especially relating to reliable and current information on performance, "including student achievement as determined by the institution or program," provided routinely to the public. Requirements for biennial narrative reporting have been made more explicit in this regard by adding "Identify how and where the program publicly provides evidence of assessment and evaluation of student achievement" to the Content section of the instructions at <http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/resourcesforprogramadministrators/reqreporting>

To support this policy revision, annual ALA-COA letters of response to reports sent in April 2012 to all programs included this language:

Protection of the public interest is a primary function of accreditation. Elements I.3 and IV.2 of the ALA Standards, as well as the Introduction, point to this. The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) oversees this function and COA-ALA must clearly demonstrate that it has fully implemented "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" (2006 *CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, 12B1).

With program performance and student achievement in mind, please identify in the next biennial narrative report how and where the program publicly provides evidence of assessment and evaluation of student achievement, as mentioned in Standards II.7 and IV.6.

In addition to the good example of publicly available information that the Committee on Recognition found in the meeting with me and the chair of COA, many other instances have been further improved. This more explicit policy requirement and request by letter has resulted in useful clarifying conversations with program personnel.

I look forward to a response from the CHEA Committee regarding this further documentation in hopes of hearing that it has recommended to the CHEA Board of Directors reaffirmation of recognition for ALA-COA.

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