

Council for  
Higher Education  
Accreditation

One Dupont Circle NW • Suite 510  
Washington DC 20036-1135

tel: 202-955-6126  
fax: 202-955-6129

e-mail: [chea@chea.org](mailto:chea@chea.org)  
web: [www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)

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December 16, 2011

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Ms. Karen O'Brien  
Director  
Office for Accreditation  
American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Karen:

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition met on November 21-22, 2011. During that meeting, the committee reviewed the application for recognition submitted by the American Library Association Office for Accreditation (ALA).

This is to inform you that the committee will recommend to the CHEA Board of Directors at its January 23, 2012 meeting that action on the recognition application be deferred for one year. The reason for the committee's decision follows below.

The committee is calling for more substantial evidence that ALA has and implements a specific accreditation standard or policy that requires institutions or programs routinely to provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program (*Paragraph 12(B)(1), 2006 CHEA Policy and Procedures*). Within the recognition application and during the meeting with the committee on November 21, 2011, ALA indicated that accredited programs are to make their program presentations (self-studies) detailing student performance available to the public via the Internet every seven years when applying for continued accreditation. The purpose and intent of the CHEA recognition standard is for programs to provide reliable information to the public routinely, in contrast to information that may not be current or may be a number of years old.

The 2006 CHEA recognition policy requires that recommendations from the committee on recognition be transmitted to the CHEA Board of Directors for final action. This recommendation for deferral of recognition will be reviewed and acted upon by the CHEA Board of Directors at its meeting on January 23, 2012 in Washington, DC. Until that action, the committee's recommendation is an interim determination only.

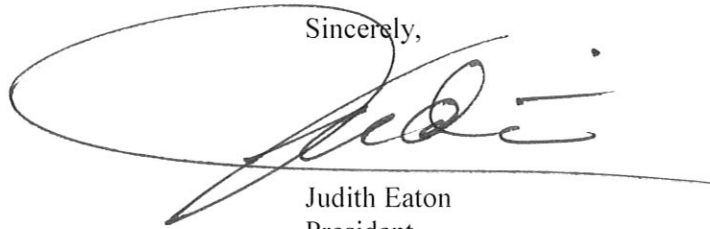
ALA may request that the CHEA Board of Directors review the committee's recommendation. Should ALA seek a CHEA board review as provided for in the *2006 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures* (Paragraph 23, page 11, and Paragraphs 34-40, pages 14-16), ALA must submit a written request for review to me within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The request must address the recommendation and include any alleged procedural errors and any alleged errors of fact or interpretation in the committee's recommendation, as well as additional information that addresses the deficiencies identified in this letter.

If ALA wishes to appear in person before the CHEA Board of Directors, please notify me of your request as soon as possible and in no event later than the submission of your request for review.

If you have a question about the committee action or the recognition process, please contact Leah Matthews, CHEA Vice President for Recognition Services.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith Eaton', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Judith Eaton  
President

c: Leah Matthews, Vice President for Recognition Services