

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.

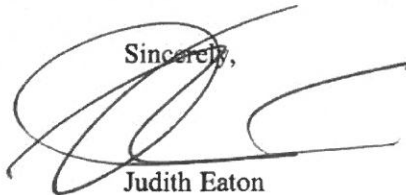
Please note that further extensions or delays will not be granted to ALA-CoA to meet the CHEA standards. Given the committee's ongoing concerns, the committee may recommend withdrawal of recognition, per paragraph 44 of the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*, unless 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](mailto:cornacchia@chea.org).

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Judith Eaton  
President

June 15, 2018

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

Dear Karen:

At its June 4, 2018 meeting, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition reviewed the additional information report submitted by the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-CoA). While the committee acknowledges receipt of the report, it is calling on you and your CoA chair to join the committee in closed session at its November 19-20, 2018 meeting.

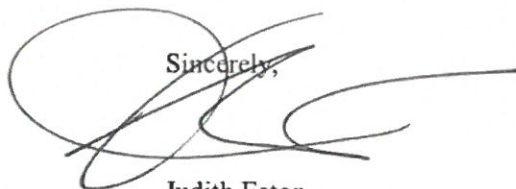
The committee remains concerned regarding ALA-CoA's ongoing inability to provide evidence that it meets CHEA Standard 12A5 of the *2010 CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*. In addition, the committee noted, once again, that ALA-CoA still does not fully meet CHEA Standards 12B1 and 12B5. The committee's concerns regarding CHEA Standards 12B1 and 12B5 date back to ALA-CoA's 2011 recognition review.

Given these ongoing issues, the committee, once again, did not act on the change of scope request and will consider the scope matter at the November 2018 meeting. CHEA staff will contact you regarding the November 2018 meeting timeframe and logistics.

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](mailto:cornacchia@chea.org).

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Judith Eaton  
President

cc: Dr. Terry L. Weech, ALA-CoA Chair  
Thomas J. Cornacchia, Vice President for Recognition Services



December 20, 2018

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

Dear Karen:

At its November 19-20, 2018 meeting, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition met with representatives of the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation (ALA-CoA) to discuss the committee's ongoing concerns regarding ALA-CoA's inability to meet CHEA Standards 12A5, 12B1 and 12B5 as outlined in the 2010 *CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*. The committee appreciates the opportunity to meet with you, ALA-CoA Chair Loretta Parham, and ALA Executive Director Mary Ghikas, and considered the time together both productive and informative.

As discussed at the meeting, the committee indicated that additional information regarding the ongoing concerns and how ALA-CoA meets the required CHEA standards is essential. We are including the corresponding standard as identified in the 2019 *CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*.

1. CHEA Standard 12A5 (*new CHEA Standard 10D*): Please submit documentation to support that the proposed reported changes to ALA-CoA policy or procedures and the corresponding references to resources have been both adopted and implemented on or before June 2018 and that these meet CHEA recognition requirements.
2. CHEA Standard 12B1 (*new CHEA Standard 11B1*): The committee is looking to see that all ALA-CoA-accredited programs provide relevant public information regarding program performance, including student achievement. While some program Website information show student achievement data, this was only a small number of the ALA-CoA-accredited programs and Websites. In addition, a number of Websites rely on student survey information and, while useful, this information does not include student achievement information to meet CHEA expectations.

Once again, ALA-CoA is asked to provide links for each of its accredited programs and which 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.

3. CHEA Standard 12B5 (*new CHEA Standard 11A1*): The committee encourages ALA-CoA to provide fuller information regarding its accreditation decision actions and to consider expanding the information currently presented.

The committee did not act on the organization's change of scope request to include international accreditation due to the ongoing issues.

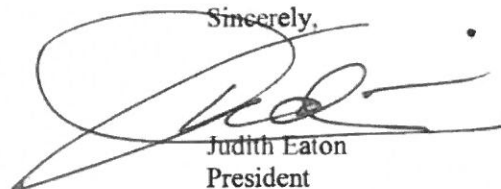
Please note that further extensions or delays will not be granted to ALA-CoA to meet the CHEA standards. Given the committee's ongoing concerns, the committee intends to recommend withdrawal of recognition to the CHEA Board of Directors, per paragraph 44 of the 2010 *CHEA Recognition of Accrediting Organizations Policy and Procedures*, unless ALA-CoA is able to demonstrate at the June 2019 meeting that it meets the CHEA standards noted above.

ALA-CoA has its next Interim Report scheduled for committee consideration in June 2019. In addition, ALA-CoA is to submit its response to the first deadline (April 30, 2019) of the *CHEA Transition Framework*, per the December 11 email communication. Please be advised that the report, along with ALA-CoA's response to the *CHEA Transition Framework*, will not be considered by the committee unless ALA-CoA satisfies the ongoing issues as noted above.

ALA-CoA's response to the ongoing concerns, its interim report and *Framework* response are due by April 30, 2019 for review by the committee at its June 2019 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](mailto:cornacchia@chea.org).

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Judith Eaton  
President

cc: Mary Ghikas, ALA Executive Director  
Loretta Parham, ALA-CoA Chair  
Thomas J. Cornacchia, Vice President for Recognition Services