

COPS AND COUNSELORS: TRENDS IN ACCREDITATION

***COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS
ANNUAL MEETING***

ATLANTA

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***JUDITH EATON, PRESIDENT
COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION***



TRENDS

- ▶ *UNCERTAINTY AND UNPREDICTABILITY – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT*
- ▶ *FEDERAL INTEREST IN CONTROL OF ACCREDITATION*
- ▶ *CONGRESS AND DEREGULATION OF ACCREDITATION*
- ▶ *ACCREDITATION AS PUBLIC – NOT HIGHER EDUCATION – PROPERTY*
- ▶ *CHARACTERISTIC RESPONSES – ACCREDITING COMMUNITY*

A WAY FORWARD: CHEA REGULATORY RELIEF AGENDA

STIPULATING UP FRONT

- ▶ ***ACCREDITATION IMPORTANT, VALUABLE, ESSENTIAL TO QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION. SOMETHING OF WHICH TO BE PROUD***
- ▶ ***OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES REMAIN CENTRAL:***
 - ▶ ***PEER REVIEW***
 - ▶ ***ACADEMIC FREEDOM***
 - ▶ ***INSTITUTIONAL INDEPENDENCE***
 - ▶ ***ACCREDITOR INDEPENDENCE***
 - ▶ ***THE INTELLECTUAL INTEGRITY OF THE ACADEMY***
 - ▶ ***THE ACADEMIC AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP OF THE ACADEMY***

TREND 1: UNCERTAINTY AND UNPREDICTABILITY - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- ▶ **NEW ADMINISTRATION: RECENT PERMANENT STAFF; LITTLE DISCUSSION**
- ▶ **NO SENSE OF DEFINING FRAMEWORK**

TREND 2: FEDERAL INTEREST IN CONTROL OF ACCREDITATION

- ▶ **USDE**
 - ▶ **TRANSPARENCY AGENDA – ACCOUNTABILITY FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, COMMON DEFINITIONS, TERMINOLOGY, RIGOR, TRANSPARENCY**
- ▶ **CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**
 - ▶ **DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS WANT CHANGE**
 - ▶ **MAJOR IDEAS: FEDERAL QUALITY INDICATORS – GRADUATION, DEBT/DEFAULT, JOBS AND EARNINGS, TRANSPARENCY, E.G., DASHBOARD, ACCOUNTABILITY**
 - ▶ **TWO BILLS: WARREN AND RUBIO-BENNET**
 - ▶ **INFLUENCED BY THINK TANKS – DIFFERENTIATED, “SKIN,” NEW FORMS OF QUALITY REVIEW, ALTERNATIVE FINANCING**

***...BOTTOM LINE, TREND 2: NATIONALIZATION,
STANDARDIZATION OF ACCREDITATION, FEDERAL
FRAMEWORK FOR ACCREDITATION, EITHER FULL
CONTROL OF GATEKEEPING OR END IT,***

***POWERFUL DIVERGENCE – FEDERAL
INTEREST/ACADEMIC INTEREST IN
ACCREDITATION...***



TREND 3: CONGRESS AND DEREGULATION OF ACCREDITATION

- ▶ **MOSTLY FROM REPUBLICANS**
- ▶ **MORE CONVINCING PRIOR TO THE ELECTION**
- ▶ **NOT USED FOR ACCREDITATION YET**

TREND 4: ACCREDITATION AS PUBLIC – NOT HIGHER EDUCATION – PROPERTY

- ▶ **GATEKEEPING IS THE LENS FOR JUDGMENT: ROI AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**
- ▶ **MEDIA: TRANSPARENCY, SUMMATIVE JUDGMENT**
- ▶ **DEFERENCE TO HIGHER EDUCATION DIMINISHED: ACCREDITORS AS AGENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND NOT REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

“COLLEGE ACCREDITORS NEED HIGHER STANDARDS”

***“FORGET ACCREDITATION. BRING ON THE COLLEGE
AUDIT”***

***“THERE NEEDS TO BE A BETTER WAY TO RATE THE
QUALITY OF COLLEGES”***

“MANY ACCREDITORS HAVE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST”

***“WHEN WILL WE, AT LAST, DO SOMETHING ABOUT
ACCREDITATION?”***

TREND 5: CHARACTERISTIC RESPONSES – ACCREDITING COMMUNITY

- ▶ ***DOING MORE WITH OUTCOMES AND TRANSPARENCY***
- ▶ ***CONTINUE LONGSTANDING PRACTICE***
- ▶ ***PREFER THE GATEKEEPING ROLE***
- ▶ ***IT'S NOT ENOUGH....***



WHAT DO THE FIVE TRENDS SAY ABOUT “COPS AND COUNSELORS”?

- ▶ **PRESSURE IS FOR COPS**
- ▶ **ACCREDITORS TRYING TO PROTECT COUNSELORS**
- ▶ **ACCREDITORS TRYING TO DO BOTH FOR A LONG TIME**
- ▶ **RIGHT NOW, COPS ARE WINNING:**
 - ▶ **FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS**
 - ▶ **PRESSURE TO PLAY OVERSIGHT, NOT PARTNERSHIP, ROLE**
 - ▶ **AGENTS AND NOT REPRESENTATIVES**
- ▶ **WHAT IS NEEDED: MORE DEFINITIVE ABOUT PERFORMANCE AND TRANSPARENCY – THIS WILL BUY “COUNSELOR” FREEDOM**

A WAY FORWARD: CHEA POSITION PAPER – REGULATORY RELIEF FOR ACCREDITATION

GOALS FOR ACCREDITATION

- ▶ ***PROTECT STUDENTS – RIGOR AND TRANSPARENCY***
- ▶ ***ADVANCE INNOVATION – WITHIN TRADITIONAL ACCREDITATION
AND ENLARGING THE ACCREDITATION SPACE***
- ▶ ***SUSTAIN THE STRENGTHS OF ACCREDITATION – PEER REVIEW,
FORMATIVE EVALUATION, INDEPENDENCE FOR LEADERSHIP***

RELIEF IS ABOUT...CHANGES IN LAW, REGULATION, SUB-REGULATION

- ▶ ***OVERALL OBJECTIVE: REDUCE FEDERAL INFLUENCE AND AUTHORITY***
- ▶ ***AREAS FOR RELIEF – TEN:***
 - ▶ ***SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE***
 - ▶ ***DEFINITION OF CREDIT HOUR***
 - ▶ ***COMMON DEFINITIONS AND TERMS***
 - ▶ ***CONFIDENTIALITY***
 - ▶ ***PRESERVE RULE OF CONSTRUCTION***
 - ▶ ***“NO” TO EXPANDING FEDERAL OVERSIGHT***
 - ▶ ***NACIQI OVERSIGHT***
 - ▶ ***NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING***

- ▶ **REGULATORY RELIEF FOR ACCREDITATION AND COPS AND COUNSELORS**
 - ▶ **MOVES TO STRENGTHEN COUNSELOR ROLE**
 - ▶ **REDUCES COP ROLE**
 - ▶ **IF IT IS HAPPENS IN FEDERAL RECOGNITION, IT AFFECTS ALL OF US**
 - ▶ **FIGHTS AN EMERGING “AGENT OF GOVERNMENT” CULTURE IN ACCREDITATION**
 - ▶ **FEDERAL REGULATION NOT ONLY MAKES ACCREDITATION MORE RULE-DRIVEN – IT ENCOURAGES A COMPLIANCE/OBEDIENCE-TO-REGULATION MENTALITY AMONG ACCREDITORS IN ALL THEIR WORK**
 - ▶ **END OF COMPARTMENTALIZING OR BALANCING: GATEKEEPING VS. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT – IT IS NO LONGER WORKING – COPS APPROACH TO POWERFUL**

IF SUCCESSFUL...

ACCREDITATION CONTINUES - SUSTAINING AND ENHANCING

- ▶ ***HIGHER EDUCATION EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH MISSION***
- ▶ ***HIGHER EDUCATION'S TRADITIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM***
- ▶ ***PEER REVIEW AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP***
- ▶ ***ACADEMIC FREEDOM***

IF SUCCESSFUL...

- ***REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL FRAME***
- ***ELIMINATE/REDUCE THE FEDERAL ROLE IN ACADEMIC AND ACCREDITATION SPACE***
- ***TAKE BACK “EFFECTIVE ACCREDITATION”***

A WAY FORWARD: TO HELP WITH REGULATORY RELIEF...

- ▶ ***SUPPORT OUR POSITION PAPER***
- ▶ ***SHARE WITH MEMBERS***
- ▶ ***URGE THESE CHANGES AND COMMIT TO THESE GOALS***

SUMMARY

FIVE TRENDS:

- ▶ ***UNCERTAINTY AND UNPREDICTABILITY – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT***
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A WAY FORWARD: REGULATORY RELIEF FOR ACCREDITATION

THANK YOU

