Council makes accreditation decisions, approves probation and suspension measures

The Council made accreditation decisions on 19 programs at its May 3 meeting in Phoenix and approved a probation/suspension policy should a program fail to comply with ACE-JMC’s new public accountability and disclosure requirement in Standard 6 Student Services.

All accredited programs are required to provide retention and graduation data on their websites by Sept. 3. Thereafter, data must be updated annually by Aug. 15.

The requirement was approved at the fall 2012 Council meeting as part of ACE-JMC’s 10-year review and revision of its standards. Accredited programs and programs seeking initial accreditation were notified of the public accountability requirement and September deadline immediately after the meeting.

Accredited programs have been required for the past several years to track and analyze retention and graduation rates and to include the data in the self-study. The additional step to publish the data online and update it annually was prompted by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation’s recognition standards.

Registration deadline July 25 for Council meeting

The Accrediting Council will meet Friday, Aug. 23, in Chicago at the Westin Hotel, 909 N. Michigan Ave. The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Lincoln Park Room.

Hotel rooms at the Westin are available for $179 per night. Reservations can be made at this link or by contacting Westin reservations at 888-627-8385. You must mention the Accrediting Council to receive the group rate.

Deadline for reservations is Thursday, July 25.

Judith Eaton, president of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), will be guest speaker. CHEA provides oversight of higher education accrediting bodies. ACEJMC’s review by CHEA is under way.

This is an open meeting, but registration is requested by submitting a meeting attendance form at this link. For more information, contact Cindy Reinardy at the ACEJMC office, 785-864-7640 or creinardy@ku.edu.
Suspension/probation

ACEJMC is recognized by CHEA, which expects its accrediting agencies to have a policy requiring routine public disclosure of student performance.

At its May 3 meeting, the Council approved the following:

Accredited units that do not meet this requirement will be placed on probation until the data are provided or until Aug. 15 of the following year, at which time the unit will be suspended.

A unit on probation will be listed as such on ACEJMC’s website and in the quarterly newsletter. The program must pay its annual dues while on probation.

A suspended program will be listed as such on ACEJMC’s website and in its newsletters. A suspended program will not pay dues. A suspended program will remain on the accreditation review cycle schedule, but a site visit will not be scheduled until the public accountability requirement is met.

A suspended program will be reinstated immediately when the data are published and dues are paid.

Programs were notified after the May meeting of the Council’s actions. Instructions were provided on acceptable data. A copy of this document can be found on ACEJMC’s website at this link.

During the Council’s accreditation deliberations at the May meeting, three programs received initial accreditation: Shippensburg University, Qatar University in Doha and the University of Puerto Rico-Arecibo.

ACEJMC now accredits 111 programs.

(Q. Should 4-year-, 5-year or 6-year graduation rates be presented?
A. If the program is promoted to the public as a four-year program, data should reflect this. If students often use a five- or six-year model, present this data also, explaining that five- or six-year graduations are the more common practice and why.

Q. How should retention data be presented if students enter the program as juniors?
A. Data should reflect when students are admitted to the accredited program. Additional data can show retention beginning with the freshman year, but it should be explained in a brief narrative.

Q. Must data reflect the 2012-13 academic year or can it be from the previous year?
A. Use the most recent data available. In some cases, it may be the previous year. What is important is that the data are updated annually.

Q. Should data represent the undergraduate level only or include the professional master’s program?
A. If the master’s program is accredited by ACEJMC, data for this program also must be provided.

Q. Can additional data and narrative be provided?
A. Yes. Explanatory narrative should be brief. Additional data should be at cohort or unit level. Individual accomplishments are not considered reflective of the unit as a whole.

Noncompliance findings

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Data reflects separate reviews of undergrad/professional master’s programs, **Beginning 2012-13, compliance/noncompliance determined on revisits.

Public accountability FAQs

Council election

Andy Alexander, former Washington Post ombudsman and longtime Cox Newspapers executive, will each serve a three-year term.

Kathryn Christensen, professor of practice at the University of Nebraska’s College of Journalism and Mass Communications was elected to fill the one-year unexpired term of Phil Dixon, who resigned.

Trevor Brown, dean and professor emeritus at the School of Journalism, Indiana University, and John Paluszek, senior counsel at Ketchum in New York City, were re-elected to three-year terms on the Committee.
Member and program updates

The School of Mass Communications at the University of South Florida let its accreditation lapse. The school was visited by a site team in January but withdrew from the review process before the Accrediting Committee meeting in March.

Charles Davis becomes dean of Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia July 1. Davis, professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, succeeds E. Culpepper “Cully” Clark, who is retiring.

Michael Parks will be interim director of the School of Journalism at the University of Southern California. Parks, who was the school’s director from 2002 to 2008, replaces Geneva Overholser, who was director for five years.

Jennifer Adams will become chair of the Department of Communication and Information Sciences at Auburn University effective Aug. 16. She replaces Margaret Fitch-Hauser, who is retiring.

Gracie Lawson-Borders will become dean of the School of Communications at Howard University effective July 1. Lawson-Borders was associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Wyoming. She replaces interim dean Chukwuka Onwumechi.

Carol Fletcher has been named chair of the Department of Journalism at Hofstra University. Fletcher succeeds Bob Papper, who is retiring.

Valerie D. White is the new director of the Division of Journalism at Florida A&M University. White replaces Dorothy Bland, who is now dean of the School of Journalism at the University of North Texas.

Wanda Lloyd becomes chair of the Department of Mass Communications at Savannah State University July 1. Lloyd is the former executive editor of the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser and was the founding executive director of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute. She replaces Charles Elmore, who was interim chair last year.

Lisa Hatley Major will be interim dean of the School of Journalism at Indiana University effective July 1. Major succeeds Michael Evans, who was named provost and vice president of academic affairs at Unity College in Maine.

David Perlmutter has resigned as director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Iowa to become dean of the College of Media and Communication at Texas Tech. Julie Andsager will be interim director.

Gail Wiggins will serve as interim chair of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Wiggins replaces interim chair David Aldridge.

Birgit Wassmuth, chair of the Department of Communication at Kennesaw State University, was named director of the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Kansas State University.

Edward Welch was appointed interim head of the Department of Mass Communication at Grambling State University.

Monica Flippin-Wynn was appointed interim chair of the Department of Mass Communications at Jackson State University. She is an assistant professor in the department. She replaces Olorundare Aworuwa, who had served as interim chair.

Steve Coll, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and former president of The News America Foundation, becomes dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University effective July 1. Coll succeeds Nicholas Lemann, who has been dean since 2003.

Ken Paulson was named dean of the College of Mass Communication at Middle Tennessee State University, effective July 1. Paulson, former USA Today editor and head of the Freedom Forum, succeeds Roy Moore, who is retiring.

Michael Holmes will be chair of the Department of Journalism at Ball State University. He succeeds interim chair Dan Waechter.

Karen Foss was named chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of New Mexico. She succeeds Glenda Balas.

Bosley reappointed as public member

Accrediting Council president Peter Bhatia reappointed Scott Bosley as a public member to the Council. Bosley’s second three-year term will continue through the spring 2016 meeting.

ASJMC, AEJMC elect Council representatives

Caryl Cooper will represent the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) on the Accrediting Council. Cooper, who will serve a three-year term, is associate professor in the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama.

Raul Reis will represent the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication (ASJMC) on the Accrediting Council. Reis is dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Florida International University. He will serve a three-year term as ASJMC’s representative.
Accrediting Council decisions

At its May 3 meeting in Phoenix, the Accrediting Council made accreditation decisions on 18 programs. The decisions follow.

**Denied:**
-- East Tennessee State University Department of Communication. (Noncompliant in standards 1, 3 and 9. Can reapply for accreditation in two years.)

**Provisional Accreditation:**
-- Abilene Christian University Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (Noncompliant in Standard 3)

**Initial Accreditation:**
-- Shippensburg University Department of Communication and Journalism (Removed from provisional.)
-- Qatar University Department of Mass Communication (Noncompliant in Standard 6)
-- University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo Department of Tele-Radial Communication

**Reaccredited:**
-- Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
-- Norfolk State University Department of Mass Communications and Journalism (Removed from provisional.)
-- Ohio University E.W. Scripps School of Journalism (Noncompliant in Standard 9)
-- Pennsylvania State University College of Communications
-- Savannah State University Department of Mass Communications (Noncompliant in Standard 1)
-- Southeast Missouri State University Department of Mass Media (Removed from provisional, noncompliance in Standard 9)
-- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Media
-- University of Memphis Department of Journalism
-- University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication
-- University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication (Removed from provisional, noncompliance in Standard 9)
-- University of Colorado Journalism and Mass Communication program. Graduate and undergraduate. (Removed from provisional.)
-- Washington and Lee University Department of Journalism and Mass Communications
-- St. Cloud State University Department of Mass Communications. (Removed from provisional.)

**Lapsed accreditation:** -- University of South Florida School of Mass Communications