

FEBRUARY 2010 ACAOM DECISION
ON FIRST PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL STANDARDS

At its February 2010 meeting, the Commission considered the public comment submitted in response to its August 2009 resolution in which ACAOM extended the comment period for seeking information and input regarding the development of first professional doctoral standards until January 15, 2010 (<http://www.acaom.org/PdfVersion/ACAOM%20Reconsiders%20Resolution%20on%20FPDx%2009.pdf>).

The Commission received approximately 3000 letters and petition signatures on the subject, including from individual practitioners, students and patients, the Presidents of state and national AOM organizations such as the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), the American Association of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine (AAAOM), a significant number of state AOM professional organizations, an AOM organization promoting a unique business model for professional practice, and from virtually all of the Asian AOM organizations in the US. Collectively, the organizations that submitted commentary represent the AOM educational community and a significant percentage of all AOM practitioners in the US.

Based on this review the Commission, in its exercise of professional judgment, is satisfied that there is sufficient support to justify the further development of first-professional doctoral standards. Accordingly, the Commission voted to authorize the ACAOM Doctoral Task Force to complete its work in developing standards for accrediting first-professional doctoral programs in AOM for the Commission's review and consideration. In taking this action, the Commission does not take any position on whether or not the first-professional doctorate should be the required educational requirements for professional practice in AOM, which is the prerogative of state legislative and AOM regulatory authorities.

In the coming months the Commission will be reconvening the ACAOM Doctoral Task Force to refine the first draft of first-professional doctoral programs (<http://www.acaom.org/pdfversion/ACAOM%20Draft%20First%20Professional%20Doctoral%20Standards.pdf>) based on the public comment previously received on that draft. A second draft of the standards to be developed by the Task Force will be submitted to the AOM communities of interest for public comment pursuant to the Commission's public comment and hearing protocols.