

ACAOM

The Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine



Spring 2011

THE CHAIR'S CORNER

As the new Commission Chair, I would like to thank all of the ACAOM Commissioners for their trust and confidence in electing me to this position. I also want to thank our outgoing Chair, Carla Wilson and previous Vice Chair, Fiquet Duckworth for both their work for ACAOM and their respective mentorship during my first three years on the Commission. It is also important for me to acknowledge the efforts of our current staff and all of the previous commissioners and staff members for their collective work in shepherding ACAOM through our first 25+ years.

Times and Federal regulations have changed, so let me be the first to welcome you to the new ACAOM. Over the last year, we have gone through tremendous transition and change, which while challenging has resulted in a stronger, more efficient, and more effective Commission.

We have a new look and new energy and we are investing in our collective future through the implementation of a new website and database. We have new leadership in the office, new leadership on the Commission, and three new Commissioners as of our recent meeting. The new Commissioners bring expertise in the areas of accreditation (programmatic and regional), doctoral education experience including DAOM, distance education, and institutional administration, and they help round out a very dedicated group of people focused on continuous quality improvement of our accreditation policies, processes, and procedures.

We have a number of priorities for the upcoming year:

1. Renewal of Recognition and Expansion of Scope with the U.S. Department of Education. This is our top priority for the year and will include a number of revisions to our standards, policies and procedures to comply with changes in Federal regulations.
2. Completion of the re-conceptualized Master Standards.
3. Appointment of a new First Professional Doctorate (FPD) Task Force and initiation of Phase II of the activities.
4. Improved website with online data and report submission capabilities.

We are excited about the improvements we are making for the Commission and are looking forward to streamlining the process for the schools/programs we accredit.



Mark S. McKenzie,
LAc, MsOM, Diplom
Chair

IN THIS ISSUE...

The Chair's Corner	1
Dear Community	2
New Commissioners	3
First Professional Doctorate Task Force	5
February 2011 actions	5
USDE Recognition	6
New Policies	6





From: The Desk of Carla J. Wilson

Dear Community of Educators, Students, and Colleagues:

It is time for me to say goodbye to you as the Chair of the Accreditation for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. I am profoundly grateful to you for giving me the honor to serve, to work for you, and with you, to prepare the Asian medicine profession to move forward as a vital and critical element of modern health care.

The six years of my service to ACAOM has been a time of dramatic transformation for all of us. In all the work I have done as Chair, every decision for growth, every action I have taken, with every policy I've put forward, my intention has been to prepare students to graduate from AOM college with the tools, skills, and conditions to build the future of this profession and provide a healthier world for all.

Working together, I believe that the Commission has done and will continue to do well. We have evaluated and modified staffing needs at the Commission office in Greenbelt, MD. We have established executive leadership by bringing William Goding on board to help steer the Commission forward. We have overhauled administrative systems and implemented technology that will assist the colleges in the move to competency-based standards and outcomes.

I believe that the growth and changes within ACAOM will be a point of strength for the colleges, the quality and standards in AOM education, and ultimately the profession going forward. I'm very grateful to be able to turn over the reins of leadership to a new Chair who possesses a strong vision for the profession and is anchored in higher education. I know that Mark McKenzie will do all that is necessary to meet the challenges that face the accreditation of AOM colleges in this country.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to say what a privilege it has been to serve on the Commission for the past six years. My institutional seat expired at the end of February 2011, and the Winter meeting was my last one as a Commissioner. I have a deep respect for all the colleges and the hard work that goes on to ensure that students are well prepared for the professional and the clinical challenges they face upon graduation. I have greatly appreciated the support I have received over the past few years from the college community. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

At your service,

Carla J. Wilson MA, L.Ac, NCCAOM Dipl, DAOM (candidate)

Carla Wilson is the immediate past chair of ACAOM having completed her term on the Commission after the February 2011 meeting. She served as a Commissioner from 2004 through February 2011. During her tenure she held the positions of Chair (2009-2011), Acting Chair (2008-2009), Doctoral Task Force Chair (2007-2009), Vice Chair (2006-2007), Nominations Chair (2004-2005).





ACAOM Elects New Commissioners

At its February 2011 meeting, the Commission elected three new Commissioners to serve 3 year terms. Prior to the election, ACAOM amended its Bylaws to revise the categories of Commissioners to match those defined in the regulations of the United States Department of Education (USDE) that apply to the Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies (34 CFR Part 602).

The Commission continues to have eleven Commissioners and the categories of practitioner and public did not change. The institutional category was replaced with administrator, academic, and educator, and the distribution among the categories was changed to:

- 2 shall be administrator members,
- 2 shall be academic members,
- 2 shall be educator members, who shall be elected from programs that are either accredited by it or in candidacy with the Commission
- 2 shall be practitioners of acupuncture or Oriental medicine,
- 2 shall be public members,
- 1 shall be an "at-large" member.

USDE defines the new categories as:

An **administrator** member is someone currently or recently directly engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary program or institutional administration

An **educator** member is someone currently or recently directly engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary education in an academic capacity (e.g., professor, instructor, academic dean)

An **academic** member is someone currently or recently directly engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary teaching and/or research.

ACAOM defines the other categories as:

A **public** member is a person who is not: a) an employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either has achieved ACAOM accreditation or candidacy status, or has applied for accreditation or candidacy; b) a member of any trade association or membership organization related to, or affiliated or associated with ACAOM; or, c) a spouse, parent, child, sibling of an individual or individuals described in a) or b) of this definition; or d) a practitioner as defined below.

A **practitioner** member is a person whose principal source of income is as a practitioner of acupuncture or Oriental medicine. Practitioner members should be actively involved in the development of the profession.

Within the next few months, ACAOM will be calling for nominees to fill two upcoming Commissioner vacancies. Watch the ACAOM web site for the announcement and the nomination procedure.





COMMISSION ROSTER

New Commissioners

**Mark S. McKenzie, L.Ac, MsOM, Diplom
Chair**

Educator Member
Bloomington, MN

**Catherine A. Niemiec, JD, L.Ac
Vice Chair**

Administrator Member
Phoenix, AZ

**Henry C. Chang, Ph.D., M.L.S., M.A.
Secretary/Treasurer**

Public Member
Los Angeles, CA

John Cooper, Ed.D.

Public Member
Jamaica Plain, MA

Alex Holland, M.Ac, L.Ac.

Academic Member
Tucson, AZ

Jim Showrank, Ph.D.

At-Large Member
Aliquippa, PA

Angela Ying Tu (Danzig), MD (China) LAC

Practitioner Member
Walnut Creek, CA

Joseph Changqing Yang, Ph.D., L.Ac

Educator Member
Santa Monica, CA



**John Paul Liang
Ph.D., MSOM, LAc**

Academic Member
Houston, TX



**Lee Hullender Rubin
DAOM LAc**

Practitioner Member
Portland, OR



**Judie G. Wexler
PhD**

Administrator Member
San Francisco, CA

The Commission is also supported by its staff:

William W. Goding MEd, RRT, Interim Executive Director
Annette Mallory Donawa, PhD, Director of Accreditation Services
Lillie Williams, BS, Coordinator

Contact Us at: 7501 Greenway Center Drive • MTC #3 Suite 760 • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • (301) 313-0855





First Professional Doctorate Task Force to Reconvene

ACAOM is currently considering nominees to be appointed to a renewed First Professional Doctorate Task Force (FPDTF).

The FPDTF will serve in an advisory capacity to the Commission with the charge of proposing appropriate accreditation standards for a first professional doctorate (FPD) program in acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine. The focus of the task force will be to develop a subsequent draft of the FPD Standards/Criteria; not to debate the appropriateness of this doctoral education within the profession or other secondary aspects of the FPD. The meetings will be facilitated by the Chair of the task force Dr. Tim Chapman and ACAOM's Interim Executive Director, William Goding.

The work of the FPDTF will be segmented into phases. Phase I has been completed and consisted of preparation of the current draft of proposed FPD Standards/Criteria as well as collection of comments on that draft.

Phase II activities will include:

- A review of the current draft of the proposed FPD Standards/Criteria.
- A review of the public comments previously received.
- An analysis of the United States Department of Education (USDE) regulations relative to the draft proposed FPD Standards/Criteria.
- Preparation of a subsequent draft of proposed FPD Standards/Criteria.

The Commission is targeting its August 2011 meeting to review the draft proposed FPD Standards/Criteria and to post that draft to the ACAOM web site for public comment. Phase III would entail the FPDTF reviewing the draft proposed Standards/Criteria in view of the public comments received, making revisions, if necessary, and finalizing a draft to be forwarded to the Commission.

Summary of Actions of February 2011 Commission Meeting

ACAOM met from February 24-26, 2011 and took the following preaccreditation (Candidacy) and accreditation actions:

Candidacy Granted

Alhambra Medical University

Alhambra, CA

Institutional

Programmatic: Acupuncture in English
Oriental Medicine in English

Initial Accreditation Granted

National University of Health Sciences

Lombard, IL

Programmatic: Acupuncture in English
Oriental Medicine in English

Renewal of Accreditation Granted

Academy for Five Element Acupuncture

Gainesville, FL

Institutional

Programmatic: Acupuncture in English

Southwest Acupuncture College

Santa Fe, NM

Programmatic: Acupuncture in English
Oriental Medicine in English

At the conclusion of the February meeting, there are now:

- 62 schools with accredited programs in Acupuncture and/or Oriental Medicine in 21 states.
- 38 accredited Acupuncture programs
- 2 Candidacy Acupuncture programs
- 47 accredited Oriental Medicine programs
- 3 Candidacy Oriental Medicine programs
- 3 accredited DAOM programs
- 4 Candidacy DAOM programs

A complete list of accredited programs is available on the ACAOM web site.





ACAOM Renewal of Recognition by USDE Proceeding



Every five years, accrediting agencies recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education “as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training offered by the institutions of higher education or higher education programs they accredit” must undergo renewal of

that recognition with the U.S Department of Education (USDE).

To be recognized, accrediting agencies must demonstrate compliance with the Federal regulations specified in 34 CFR Part 602. The process includes the agency filing a petition describing how it meets the regulations, an analysis of that petition by USDE staff, a response by the agency to that staff analysis, and an appearance by the agency before the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), which “advises the Secretary of Education on matters related to accreditation and to the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education”.

ACAOM received its last renewal of recognition in 2006, and therefore, is now undergoing its next five year renewal. ACAOM filed its petition on January 7, 2011 and is scheduled to appear before NACIQI at the June 8-10, 2011 meeting in Alexandria, VA.

As part of the process, the Secretary designates the scope of an agency’s recognition for Title IV, HEA purposes according to:

1. Geographic area of accrediting activities
2. Types of degrees and certificates covered
3. Types of institutions and programs covered
4. Types of preaccreditation status covered
5. Coverage of accrediting activities related to distance education or correspondence education

ACAOM’s current scope of recognition is:

...accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidacy” status) throughout the United States of first-professional master’s degree and professional master’s level certificate and diploma programs in acupuncture and Oriental medicine, as well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture or Oriental medicine that offer such programs.

In conjunction with this renewal petition, ACAOM is requesting an expansion of its scope to include “professional post-graduate doctoral programs in acupuncture and in Oriental Medicine (DAOM)”. There are currently three DAOM programs accredited and four preaccredited (Candidacy) by ACAOM.

ACAOM will keep the community informed as it progresses through the recognition process.



ACAOM Approves New Policies

To maintain compliance with regulation changes by USDE, ACAOM passed two new Substantive Change policies related to addition of a permanent location and to contracts to offer more than 25% of an ACAOM accredited institution’s program(s). The full text of each is in the *Policies and Procedures Handbook* (1.14.2 and 2.14.2).

ACAOM also amended the policy on the composition of an Appeal Panel (3.5.8) to provide for representation consistent with the USDE categories of personnel on decision-making bodies.

The complete *Policies and Procedures Handbook* is available on the ACAOM web site.

SAVE the DATES:

Eligibility Workshop (required of all programs seeking Candidacy)	June 17, 2011; 1:00p to 5:00p
Self Study Workshop (required of all programs seeking Initial or Renewal of Accreditation)	June 18, 2011; 9:00a to 5:00p

