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ACAOM Update November 2011

We are extremely pleased at the progress the Commission and the Commission staff have made during the last year. This effort has resulted in a stronger, more efficient, and more effective Commission and we are excited about moving forward with our priorities for the upcoming year:

1. **Status of renewal of recognition by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE):** ACAOM received continued recognition for 1 year, effective July 8, 2011. A compliance report will be submitted to USDE by August 8, 2012.

In conjunction with the July 8, 2011 continued recognition from USDE, the scope of ACAOM's authority was expanded to include candidacy and accreditation of DAOM programs. Schools that have institutional accreditation from ACAOM may now use that accreditation to establish eligibility for Title IV funding for DAOM programs.

Meeting all the regulations of USDE remains ACAOM's top priority for the year and will include a number of revisions to the accreditation Standards, policies and procedures to comply with Federal regulations.

2. **Continued work on the First Professional Doctorate (FPD) Standards:** The FPD Task Force, Chaired by Tim Chapman, completed its review of the draft FPD Standards and filed its report with ACAOM in August 2011. The Commission completed review of the document at our October meeting and after final revisions have been approved, the draft will be presented for public comment. The Commission will then review the comments to determine if further changes are needed prior to giving final approval.
3. **Continued work on the re-conceptualized Master Standards:** Incorporating concepts developed by the FPD Task Force, ACAOM has returned to the review and revision of the re-conceptualized Master's Standards. Once the Commission has approved the final draft, it will also be presented for public comment.

All of this work would not be possible without our dedicated staff and the Commissioners that volunteer their time to further this profession. Thank you!

Mark S. McKenzie, LAc MsOM DiplOM
Chair

ACAOM Commissioners: ACAOM is proceeding to fill the two vacancies that will occur at the close of the February 2012 meeting.

The composition of the Commission is:

- 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 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.

Commission Members:

**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

John Paul Liang, Ph.D., MSOM, LAc
Academic Member
Houston, TX

Lee Hullender Rubin, DAOM LAc
Practitioner Member
Portland, OR

Jim Showrank, Ph.D.
At-Large Member
Aliquippa, PA

Angela Ying Tu (Danzig), MD (China) LAc
Practitioner Member
Walnut Creek, CA

Judie G. Wexler, PhD
Administrator Member
San Francisco, CA

Joseph Changqing Yang, Ph.D., L.Ac
Educator Member
Santa Monica, CA

Commission Staff:

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

Candidacy and Accredited Schools and Programs:

At the conclusion of the August 2011 Commission meeting, there are now:

- 61 schools/campuses with Candidacy/accredited programs in Acupuncture and/or Oriental Medicine in 21 states.
- 48 schools with institutional Candidacy (3) or accreditation (45) by ACAOM.
- 39 accredited Acupuncture programs
- 2 Candidacy Acupuncture programs
- 47 accredited Oriental Medicine programs
- 3 Candidacy Oriental Medicine programs
- 3 accredited DAOM programs
- 5 Candidacy DAOM programs

ACAOM Thanks First Professional Doctorate Task Force: ACAOM received the report of the First Professional Doctorate Task Force (FPDTF) in August 2011. ACAOM thanks the Task Force Chair and the 12 members for their outstanding work.

Tim Chapman, PhD, **Task Force Chair;**

Members: Yemeng Chen, LAc FICAE; Beth Donohue, MS DC; Steve Given, DAOM LAc Dipl Ac; Stacy Gomes, EdD; Daniel Jiao, DAOM LAc Dipl Ac, CH & OM; Amy Matecki, MD MSTCM; Jeffery Millison, MAc LAc; Will Morris, PhD LAc MEd MTOM; Dennis Moseman, DC MS LAc; Andrea Smith, EdD; Judie Wexler, PhD; and Carla Wilson, MA LAc, Dipl Ac & CH

ACAOM Continuation of Recognition by U.S. Department of Education (USDE): 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 appeared before NACIQI at its June 8-10, 2011 meeting in Alexandria, VA. Following that meeting, Assistant Secretary of Education, Eduardo Ochoa, communicated ACAOM’s continued recognition for a period of 1 year, with a follow up compliance report due no later than August 8, 2012.

ACAOM’s scope of recognition as of July 8, 2011 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 and professional post-graduate doctoral programs in acupuncture and in Oriental medicine (DAOM), as well as freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture or Oriental medicine that offer such programs.

ACAOM Policies: To maintain compliance with regulation changes by USDE, ACAOM will continue to review and revise its policies to complete the USDE recognition process. The complete *Policies and Procedures Handbook* (April 2011 edition) is available on the ACAOM web site (www.acaom.org) .

ACAOM Site Visitor Workshops: On Sunday, November 13, 2011, ACAOM will conduct a workshop for site visitors. There are 28 registrants. On Monday, November 14, 2011, ACAOM will conduct a site visitor chair workshop.