



AABC

Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

Spring Issue
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Route To:

NEWSLETTER



Dr. Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director

From the Director's Desk



Historic Annual Meeting for the Association

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, held February 19-21 at the Orlando Airport Marriott, may have been one of the most significant in the history of the Association. We enjoyed a record attendance with over 500 delegates. More importantly, the membership unanimously or almost unanimously approved all four major recommendations that were brought to the business meeting for ratification.

This particular issue of the *AABC Newsletter* highlights the four "Casting a New Vision" recommendations that were approved and the follow-up steps that are underway. This information will be of interest to those who attended the Annual Meeting as well as to those who could not be present.

Recommendation # 1—Approval of the Proposed Comprehensive Integrated Accreditation Standards:

The new comprehensive standards address both undergraduate and graduate education for institutions that currently have or are seeking institutional accreditation. Because graduate education is a change of accreditation scope, an application will be prepared and submitted to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation by early summer for their approval. The new standards will be published in a new **ABHE Manual** that will be released in the Fall-2004. Thorough training on the new standards will be made available at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Institutions going through the

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self-study process and hosting an evaluation team will be expected to begin utilizing the new standards in 2006.

Recommendation #2—Approval of the Proposed Programmatic Accreditation Standards:

Programmatic accreditation has been designed for colleges and universities that seek accreditation for particular programs rather than for the entire institution. Institutions that pursue programmatic accreditation will be required to subscribe to the Association's tenets of faith, provide evidence of institutional accreditation by a recognized agency, document appropriate state or provincial approvals to offer eligible programs, and furnish a mission statement that encompasses programs of preparation for church or parachurch vocations. Furthermore, the programs submitted for accreditation will need to comply with the Association's curricular standards (relative to Bible/theology and general studies) and specific student ministry/ministry formation requirements.

Because programmatic accreditation is a new initiative for the Association, we will be required to submit a change of scope application to CHEA. This will be done in conjunction with the expansion of scope application for graduate education. We hope to make programmatic accreditation available in 2005.

Recommendation #3—Approval of a Name Change from the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges to the Association for Biblical Higher Education:

The new name will officially take effect June 1. The article entitled "New Name Reflects Change" on page 2 outlines the details of the name change.

Recommendation #4—Approval of the Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws:

Related to the three previous recommendations that were approved (comprehensive accreditation standards that include graduate education, programmatic accreditation standards, and a name change), it was necessary to make changes to the

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Constitution and Bylaws. Key changes to this essential document include:

- Any reference to the *Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges* has been changed to the *Association for Biblical Higher Education*.
- The mission statement has been changed to include *accreditation and services for institutions and programs*.
- A number of service-related items that do not involve accreditation now include *member and affiliate institutions*.
- The word "college(s)" has been replaced with the word "*institution(s)*" to be consistent with the nomenclature in the new standards.
- The words "*Bible college education*" has been replaced with "*biblical higher education*."
- Provision has been made for institutions holding programmatic accreditation *to provide as many as two of the 10 elected members to the Board of Directors and as many as two of the 10 elected members to the Commission on Accreditation*.
- Institutions *holding programmatic accreditation* will be entitled to *one voting delegate* at business meetings of the Association.

The revised Constitution and Bylaws will be contained in the new *ABHE Manual* that will be distributed in the Fall-2004.

Discussion on these new developments will continue as we look to the future of the **Association for Biblical Higher Education**. These are exciting days as we continue to advance and assure quality biblical higher education. ❖

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2004 AABC Evaluation Team Visits

Under USDE regulation 602.27(d), recognized accrediting bodies must make public the dates when an institution's accreditation or preaccreditation (candidate) status is being reviewed in order to provide opportunity for third-party comment. In view of this requirement, notice is given that the following institutions are scheduled for evaluation during calendar year **2004**. Persons wishing to submit third-party comments regarding any of these institutions should direct them to the AABC office at the following address: 5575 S. Semoran Blvd., Ste. 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781; Fax: 407-207-0840; E-mail: exdir@aabcb.org. (IA = initial accreditation; IC = initial candidacy; RA = 10-year reaffirmation)

2004

Bethany College (SK) - RA
March 10-12, 2004

Cincinnati Bible College (OH) - RA
March 22-24, 2004

Ecclesia College (AR) - IA
October 4-6, 2004

Grace University (NE) - RA
April 5-7, 2004

Magnolia Bible College (MS) - RA
October 4-6, 2004

Moody Bible Institute (IL) - RA
September 20-22, 2004

Selma University (AL) - IC
April 28-30, 2004

New Name Reflects Change

One of the four major recommendations approved by the membership at our annual business meeting on February 20 was a name change from the **Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges to the Association for Biblical Higher Education**. The new name is more inclusive than the old and better represents the wide range of institutions within the Association. The new name also addresses the expansion of scope changes that were approved by the membership as part of the new standards to include graduate-level and programmatic accreditation. Furthermore, the name change accommodates the expansion of services that has taken place with the addition of affiliate institutions that do not relate to the Association through accreditation.

Because we are receiving a number of inquiries from both member and affiliate institutions relative to the name change, a brief update is in order:

- **The new name, *Association for Biblical Higher Education*, will officially take effect June 1, 2004.**
- The new website domain, www.abhe.org, has already been secured. There are no other organizations using the name or the domain.
- We will list in small type "formerly the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges" for two years on the website and in key publications.
- Appropriate government agencies are being contacted in regards to our articles of incorporation and tax exempt status.
- An official timeline has been established for informing all appropriate constituent groups- government agencies, CHEA & other accrediting agencies, state/provincial departments of education, professional/fraternal organizations, vendors, postal services, Christian public media, etc.
- The June edition of the *Newsletter* will provide a detailed outline of important information related to the name change.
- New logo submissions have been received from a graphic artist. From the submissions a choice will be made within the next several weeks.
- Press releases and official letters of notification will also be prepared for dissemination during the month of May.
- All member and affiliate institutions will receive press release kits in later May that will include electronic versions of the new logo.
- A new and upgraded website will be launched in later May.
- The *ABHE Directory* and *Criteria Manual* will be released in the Fall that will reflect appropriate changes.

In the meantime, a number of you have asked about your catalogs and other institutional documents that need to go to press in the near future. If you relate to our Association through the accreditation process, you will state that your relationship as an **"applicant," "candidate," or "accredited"** institution is with the **Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education**. **You may also wish to list "Formerly the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges."** If you relate to our Association through affiliation, you will state that you are an **"Affiliate of" or "Affiliated with" the Association for Biblical Higher Education**. You will also want to list our address, phone number, and website: **5575 S. Semoran Blvd. Suite 26, Orlando, FL 32822-1781, Phone: 407-207-0808, www.abhe.org**.

Hopefully this brief update on the name change is helpful. Please ensure that all key personnel at your institution receive this report. Also feel free to contact our office if you have additional questions. ❖

2004 Commission on Accreditation Actions

At its February 15-18, 2004 meetings, the Commission on Accreditation of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges took the following actions regarding the accredited status of institutions:

1. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the **accredited status** of the following institutions was **reaffirmed for 10 years**:

- Canadian Bible College (AB)
- Columbia International University (SC)
- Multnomah Bible College (OR)
- Southeastern Bible College (AL)
- College of Biblical Studies-Houston (TX)
- Eugene Bible College (OR)
- Rio Grande Bible Institute (TX)

Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institutions were **granted initial accreditation status**:

- Allegheny Wesleyan College (OH)
- Tri-State Bible College (OH)

2. Following satisfactory completion of the institutional self-study process and an evaluation team visit, the following institutions were **granted candidate [pre-accredited] status**:

- Alberta Bible College (AB)
- W. L. Bonner Bible College (SC)
- Full Gospel Bible Institute (SK)
- World Mission University (CA)

3. In light of its failure to satisfactorily strengthen its compliance with AABC *Criteria for Accreditation* relating to financial stability, the following institution was **denied reaffirmation, and continues on probation**. This action is appealable under the *AABC Policy and Procedures for Appeals*:

- Puget Sound Christian College (WA)

4. In light of their failures to satisfactorily strengthen their compliance with *AABC Criteria for Accreditation*, specifically in reference to financial stability, four institutions were placed on **WARNING status** and another was put on **WARNING status** for both financial and academic reasons. **WARNING status does not constitute a public sanction**.

5. One institution was removed from **WARNING status**. ❖

2004 Conference of the Association of Canadian Bible Colleges Summit Pacific College, Abbotsford, BC

May 27-29

The 45th Annual Meeting and Professional Conference of the Association of Canadian Bible Colleges (ACBC) will be held at Summit Pacific College (formerly Western Pentecostal Bible College) in Abbotsford, BC. The conference theme is *Strategic Planning: God's Way*. The keynote speaker is Dr. Guy Saffold of Trinity Western University. For additional information contact ACBC President, Abe Bergen, at Steinbach Bible College (abe_bergen@sbcollege.mb.ca) or Judy Cathers at Summit Pacific College (wpbc-jcathers@uniserve.com). ❖

Newly Elected AABC Board & Commission Members

AABC Board



Member-at-Large
(4-Year Term)
Dr. Charles A. Estridge
Central Bible College
Springfield, MO



Public Member
(4-Year Term)
Dr. Luder Whitlock
President, Excelsis
Exec. Dir., The Trinity Forum
Orlando, FL

AABC Commission on Accreditation



(4-Year Term)
Dr. Clifford Churchill
Hobe Sound Bible College
Hobe Sound, FL



(4-Year Term)
Dr. Robert Kallgren
Columbia Int'l University
Columbia, SC



(4-Year Term)
Dr. James Lanpher
Trinity College of FL
Tarpon Springs, FL



Joint Meeting with AABC, ABACC & ACCESS



Dr. Randall Bell Honored for 30 Years of Service



57th Annual Meeting
Pictorial Highlights



Dr. Gil Peterson
 Recipient of First Annual
 Higher Education Award

**Congratulations to Growth Award
 Recipients for the following categories:**

FTE 0-199 – Somerset Christian College
FTE 200-399 – Southeastern Bible College
FTE 400-599 – Providence College & Seminary
FTE 600+ – College of Biblical Studies-Houston

Leadership Development Opportunities

LARRY J. MCKINNEY

WINTER/SPRING 2003 SCHEDULE

January

- 26-28 CHEA Conference (CA)
- 28 World Mission University (CA)
- 29 Int'l Christian University (CA)
- 29 KPCA Presbyterian Theo. Sem. (CA)

February

- 16-17 AABC Board of Directors (FL)
- 18 AABC Standing Committees (FL)
- 19-21 AABC Annual Meeting

March

- 20-22 ICETE Board Meeting (FL)
- 29 God's Bible School & Clg. (OH)
- 30 Cincinnati Bible College (OH)
- 31 Circleville Bible College (OH)

April

- 1 Allegheny Wesleyan College (OH)
- 2 Rosedale Bible College (OH)
- 13-14 Montana Bible College (MT)
- 27 Somerset Christian College (NJ)

May

- 3-4 Bethesda Christian University
(Seoul Branch Campus (Korea))
- 20 Boise Bible College (ID)
- 21 World Evangelical Alliance
Headquarters (WA)
- 25 Christ for the Nations Bible
College (BC)
- 25 Columbia Bible College (BC)
- 27-29 Association of Canadian Bible
Colleges (ACBC) – Summit
Pacific College (BC)

June

- 3 Bethany Divinity College/Sem. (AL)
- 7 Alberta Bible College (AB)
- 8-9 Canadian Southern Bapt. Sem. (AB)
- 10 Full Gospel Bible Institute (SK)
- 14 Far North Bible College (AK)
- 15-16 Alaska Christian College (AK)
- 17 Alaska Bible College (AK)
- 23 NAICU Secretariat (DC)

Leadership Development Conference for

Newer Chief Academic Officers

October 22-24, 2004

Hampton Inn-Orlando International Airport

Orlando, Florida

Leadership Development Conference for

Newer Chief Student Development Officers

November 12-14, 2004

Hampton Inn-Orlando International Airport

Orlando, Florida

The room, board, and program costs will be provided in the form of scholarships through the Leadership Development Fund. The individual or sponsoring institution will be responsible for transportation costs. Please write the dates down in your calendar if you are a newer chief academic officer or newer chief student development officer in your first, second, or third year of service.

Invitations and more specific details will be sent out in June. ❖

Leadership Development for Biblical Higher Education Fund

Pledges and gifts totaling approximately \$16,000 were received for the **Leadership Development for Biblical Higher Education Fund** in conjunction with our 57th Annual Meeting. **Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project.**

Gifts are still being received for the fund and can be sent to our office designated to **Leadership Development for Biblical Higher Education.** ❖

Student Development Officer ListServ

As a result of the recent AABC Annual Meeting, the Christian Service/Student Ministry professionals in attendance have a desire to set up a communications forum to share ideas and ask questions easily among AABC member institutions. All Christian Service/Student Ministry professionals are encouraged to submit an e-mail address to studentministries@jbc.edu. Messages will be distributed to the ListServ as they become available. We trust this will be a valuable service and means of communication. ❖

ICETE Holds Annual Board Meeting In Orlando



L-R: **Larry McKinney** (AABC), **Derek Tan** (Asian Theological Association-Singapore), **Paul Sanders** (European Evangelical Accrediting Association-Lebanon), **Vera Brock** (Association for Evangelical Theological Education in Latin America-Brazil), **Dieumeme Noelliste** (Caribbean Evangelical Theological Association-Jamaica), **Paul Bowers** (ICETE Administrator), **Les Crawford** (South Pacific Association of Bible Colleges), **Douglas Carew** (Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa).

The **International Council for Evangelical Theological Education** held its annual board meeting in Orlando from March 19-22. Larry McKinney currently serves as chair of the ICETE Board. The International Council for Evangelical Theological Education is a theological education affiliate of the **World Evangelical Alliance**. The Council is a global community sponsored by eight continental/regional networks of theological schools.

The mission of ICETE is to promote excellence and renewal in evangelical theological education by cultivating community and facilitating collaboration among its constituent associations and related entities. ❖

The Transfer Dilemma

– an editorial by Dr. Randall Bell, Associate Director –

Representatives of institutions and accrediting bodies gathered January 26-28 in Marina del Rey, CA to discuss the issues facing the accreditation community. One of the key concerns of the conference was the state of work on reauthorization of the Higher Education Amendments. In general, the accrediting community has been concerned that some of the proposals in the reauthorization legislation are excessively intrusive. One of the major issues of concern to the CHEA delegates (and, no doubt, to the AABC member institutions) was Congressman McKeon's (Republican, CA) proposal that, if enacted, would force institutions to accept transfer credits from schools accredited by USDE approved agencies. Failure to follow federal transfer guidelines could jeopardize an institution's participation in the Title IV federal student assistance programs. The legislative proposal includes a number of onerous reporting requirements relating to transfer decisions.

It should be noted that the accrediting community does not universally oppose the McKeon's transfer credit proposal. Indeed, the Career College Association has expended significant resources promoting the proposal among legislators on Capitol Hill. Some of the other national agencies (including AABC) also appreciate the focus on the transfer issue, given the problems they have encountered with transfer over the years.

The AABC staff finds the present situation to be perplexing. On the one hand, for years, students from AABC accredited member colleges have suffered from uneven and unfair transfer decisions. Too often, students have heard "we only accept credits from regionally accredited colleges." Indeed, this problem has been a primary factor in the decision of many AABC members to seek regional accreditation. If given a chance, students transferring from AABC member colleges to other types of institutions have universally acquitted themselves well. Because of this reality, it is gratifying to finally see appropriate attention focused on the rampant inequities of present transfer practices. At the same time, the present proposal is a double-edged sword. It, in our view, goes too far in regulating an institution's ability to exercise autonomy in preserving academic quality and integrity. AABC, for example, would argue for transfer only where there is a good fit between the requirements of a receiving institution's programs and the sending institution's offerings. Moreover, AABC's posture is to resist heavy government regulation that might someday affect the very core missions of our members.

Accordingly, AABC is supportive of a recent proposal to create a voluntary alliance of institutions that are committed to the establishment of transfer policies and practices that adhere to the CHEA "Statement to the Community on Transfer and the Public Interest" adopted in the year 2000. If a large number of institutions would participate in such an alliance and implement the principles outlined in the CHEA statement, it would not likely be necessary to force institutions to implement good transfer practices through legislation. AABC fervently hopes that such an alliance can be created and that it will enjoy a high rate of participation among the nation's accredited institutions. ❖

Eight New Institutions Granted Affiliate Status

The **Affiliate Status Review Committee** recently reviewed applications and **granted affiliate status** to eight more institutions. This recently approved designation affords affiliate institutions the opportunity to take advantage of many of the programs and services without becoming an accredited institution. These new affiliates bring the total to **18 institutions**. The institutions listed below are the latest additions:

Bethel Bible Institute
Hampton, VA

Biblical Life institute
Freeport, PA

Christ for the Nations Bible College
Surrey, BC

Colegio Biblico Alianza
San Juan, PR

Far North Bible College
Anchorage, AK

Florida Christian University
Orlando, FL

Fredericksburg Bible Institute & Seminary
Fredericksburg, VA

Institute for Worship Studies
Orange Park, FL

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Make a Note of It!

Upcoming Events

- **Association of Canadian Bible Colleges Conference (ACBC)**
May 27-29, 2004
Summit Pacific College (BC)-Canada
- **NAME CHANGE goes into effect**
From: AABC To: ABHE – *Association for Biblical Higher Education*
June 1, 2004
- **NAICU Secretariat**
June 23, 2004
Washington, DC
- **Leadership Development Conference for Newer Chief Academic Officers**
October 22-24, 2004
Hampton Inn-Orlando, FL
- **Leadership Development Conference for Newer Student Ministry Professionals**
November 12-14, 2004
Hampton Inn-Orlando, FL

Mark Your Calendar

See you at next year's Annual Meeting in ...



Orlando, Florida
Wyndham Orlando Resort
International Drive
February 17-19, 2005