



AABC

Winter Issue
Vol. XLIV, No. 5
December 2000

Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

NEWSLETTER

Route To:



Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director
Appointee

From the Director's Desk



Warm Christmas greetings! I look forward to establishing an official relationship with you within the coming months. I will begin my duties as Executive Director on a half-time basis in January and full-time in June. Debbie and I plan to move to Orlando at the beginning of June. Recognizing the transition that will be taking place in our lives, your prayers are very much appreciated.

Assisting in this transition, I had the privilege of chairing the AABC Strategic Planning Task Force in Orlando on October 13 and 14. Serving on this Task Force were Marta Alvarado (Moody Bible Institute), Randy Bell (AABC), Ralph Enlow (Columbia International University), David Grubbs (Cincinnati Bible College), Al Hiebert (Briercrest Bible College), George Houghton (Faith Baptist Bible College), Wayne Lowen (Florida Christian College), and Connie Pearson (Tennessee Temple University).

The following strategic issues were discussed:

- Collaboration between AABC and regional accrediting associations
- Self-study expectations for long-term AABC institutions
- Degree of prescriptiveness with AABC criteria
- Scope of AABC accreditation and service
 - *Program accreditation and/or institutional accreditation
 - *Relationships with international institutions and accrediting bodies
 - *Graduate-level programs at member institutions
 - *Associate or affiliate category for institutions not seeking accreditation

(Cont'd on Page 2)

CHEA Recognition Update

Dr. George Houghton, Commission Chair, and I represented AABC before the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition (COR) Monday, November 6. The purpose of the meeting, held in Washington D.C., was to evaluate AABC's request for continued CHEA recognition. Currently, AABC's recognition with CHEA has been based on its prior recognition by the CHEA predecessor organizations, the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA), and the subsequent Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA). AABC made higher education history by becoming the very first agency to be considered under CHEA's newly established recognition process. The new process differs from the previous COPA and CORPA processes in significant ways.

Under the CHEA process, the COR is an advisory body that forwards its recommendations to the CHEA Board for adoption. The board will act upon the COR's recommendation at its next meeting January 22.

Both of us, who served as AABC representatives, felt positive regarding the interview experience. Even though the CHEA COR was working through a new process, the committee members were obviously well prepared. Our reader remarked positively regarding the quality of our petition, indicating that it was clear and that he was able to easily follow the supporting documentation. He and the other members asked us good questions. In general, we were able to respond with positive answers. The committee went into closed session to consider the recommendation that it will make. Based on the interview experience, we are optimistic about the outcome of the process.

On another note, AABC has just received USDE notification that our petition for renewal of DE recognition will be due May 1. Obviously, given the transition occurring in the AABC office of executive director, the

deadline for our petition presents some difficulties. Dr. McKinney will not begin his duties full time until after the deadline has passed. Accordingly, AABC contacted Department of Education officials requesting an extension in time for the submission of its materials. The officials researched the matter and reported back that the law will not permit the Department to grant us an extension. Previously, because of some internal workings of the Department, the AABC staff had gained the impression that the schedule for recognition reviews would be delayed by six to 12 months. Since the deadline appears to follow the original timetable, the staff impression was in error. Needless to say, during this transition period, the AABC staff will face a significant challenge in getting ready for the review. Fortunately, the Department has provided some new helpful materials that will hopefully reduce the amount of effort required to prepare a petition. In the meantime, institutions hosting evaluation teams during the coming year should be aware that they may be asked to host a USDE observer.

We look forward to seeing you in February at the Atlanta Annual Meeting! **D**



Randall E. Bell
Associate Director

INSIDE

- From the Director's Desk Page 1
- CHEA Recognition Update Page 1
- 2001 AABC Evaluation Team Visits... Page 2
- 2000 Commission on Accreditation Actions Page 2
- Public Information Regarding Performance Page 2
- Task Force on Distance Ed Update Page 3
- Upcoming Events Page 4
- 2001 Annual Meeting Update Page 4

2001 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 2001. Persons wishing to submit third-party comments regarding any of these institutions should direct them to the AABC office at the following address: P.O. Box 780339, Orlando, FL 32878-0339; Fax: 407-207-0840; E-mail: exdir@aabc.org.

(IA = initial accreditation; IC = initial candidacy; RA = 10-year reaffirmation)

2001

Arlington Baptist College (TX) - RA

September 24-26, 2001

Central Pentecostal College (SK) - RA

April 2-4, 2001

Crown College (MN) - RA

November 7-9, 2001

Faith Baptist Bible College (IA) - RA

April 18-20, 2001

Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN) - RA

April 2-4, 2001

Prairie Bible College (AB) - RA

January 15-17, 2001

Rosedale Bible Institute (OH) - IA

October 17-19, 2001

School of Urban Missions (LA) - IC

April 16-18, 2001

Trinity College of FL - RA

October 3-5, 2001

Vennard College (IA) - RA

October 8-10, 2001

Washington Bible College (MD) - RA

April 23-25, 2001

Zeraphath Bible Institute (NJ) - IA

Fall, 2001

From the Director's Desk (Cont'd)

- Distance Education/Computer Information Technology
- Services and professional development opportunities for member schools
- AABC advancement and visibility

A detailed summary of discussions and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors at the next meeting on February 12 and 13 as well as to the Commission on Accreditation and appropriate standing committees. A report will also be given at the 54th Annual Meeting in Atlanta on February 15-17 with an opportunity provided for feedback from the membership.

I wish to thank the eight individuals who took time out of their busy schedules to engage in the arduous task of strategic planning on October 13 and 14. I was extremely encouraged by the process as well as the recommendations that were brought forth from the planning sessions.

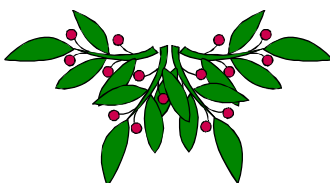
I look forward to providing you with an update at our Annual Meeting in February. See you in Atlanta! **D**

2000 Commission on Accreditation Actions

On its August 16, 2000 conference call meeting, the Commission on Accreditation of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges took the following actions:

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

- Hispanic Baptist Theological School (TX)
- The Kings College (CA) **D**



Public Information Regarding Performance

Is your institution operating in compliance with AABC criteria? In preparing our response to the CHEA Standards for Recognition, we had to demonstrate that AABC has "expectations that institutions routinely provide reliable data and information to the public on their performance." Although AABC has such expectations, the CHEA standard forced us to take a close look at how well our member colleges are living up to them. Frankly, we were dismayed to find that a number of members have failed to address all of the association requirements.

AABC's requirements are in the form of information to be published in the catalog and financial data to be available for public distribution. Perhaps the reason some institutions overlook the requirements is that they are not specified directly by the criteria. For example, criterion A.7.0 requires that institutions meet all of the Conditions of Eligibility. Condition #6 requires that certain information be included in the college catalog that is made available to the public. Among the information to be included are performance measures such as "graduation rates" and "rate of recent graduate employment in program-related occupations." Condition #19 requires an annual, opinioned external audit. Criterion B.5.5 requires colleges to maintain detailed records of annual financial reports. Criterion B.6.0 notes that "an exemplary college will be guided by the guidelines for fund raising published either by the Canadian Council for Christian Charities or by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability." The guidelines of these organizations require that audit reports be made available to the public.

We would encourage each member institution to review its practices regarding the information it makes available to the public regarding its own performance. Given the spotlight that CHEA has focused on this issue, members can confidently assume that AABC accreditation teams and the Commission on Accreditation will be looking carefully at each institution's implementation of these requirements in the months and years to come. **D**

Task Force on Distance Education Update

By: Dwight Perry

At the last Annual Meeting, the Commission on Accreditation for AABC initiated a Task Force on Distance Education Accreditation. The purpose of the task force working alongside of Commissioner Dr. Dwight Perry of the Moody Bible Institute was to develop a document that would provide assistance to AABC in its consideration of standards, guidelines, and perspective on distance education.

The task force consisted of eighteen members from AABC schools from across the country who have worked fervently over the last year to be able to identify the best practices, historical context, philosophy and core values, as well as recommendations for the Commission as it looks at the area of Bible college training through the modality of distance education. A writing team of three persons, Mr. Steve Kemp, Vice President of External Studies Moody Bible Institute; Mr. Mark Meehan, Vice President of Development, Columbia International University and Seminary; Dr. Dwight Perry, Professor of Pastoral Studies, Moody Bible Institute and AABC commissioner on accreditation, met for two days in October to flesh out the beginning stages of a guiding document. This document will be presented in February to the AABC Commission on Accreditation and will be available through the AABC for general distribution after the 2001 Annual Meeting.

A common definition has emerged in the distance education industry. Distance education is "an educational process in which instruction is provided without the student and instructor being in the same place. Critical to this definition is an understanding of distance education as distinct from more classical forms of on-campus instruction, including extension study at off-campus sites which, though less traditional in delivery system than the on-campus one hour per day three or four day a week instructional package, would not under this definition be considered distance education.

Examples of distance-based educational strategies would be the older more traditional correspondence school and the growing computer based interactive instructional component that Bible colleges and seminaries are increasingly looking at more seriously.

The Task Force identified three critical core values that should serve as essential components of a philosophy for the accreditation of distance education programs. They are as follows:

1. Use of developmental, not just regulatory, standards. Distance education is rapidly changing via technological advances. Although currently AABC standards focus on issues related to regulation and management, it is crucial that AABC schools with distance education programs have good processes for dealing with change. Accreditation criteria must encourage such processes.
2. Facilitation of responsive innovation. A by-product of being more developmental than regulatory is that accreditation encourages change that better accomplishes institutional mission and purpose. Innovation is used to create new and better forms of educational processes.

3. Focus on mission, processes and outcomes rather than methods of delivery.

As the market for services using a distance educational motif increases, accrediting agencies like AABC are going to have to figure out how to empower institutions of higher education to become more proactive in this very important area. **D**



AABC Staff

(L-R): Carol Dibble, Phyllis Ellis, Randall Bell, Jane Hartzler

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
The Lord make His face
shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face
toward you
and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

We rejoice in God's gift of His
Son, Jesus Christ, to us. May you
experience joy and peace during
this season as we
celebrate His birth.

From our office to yours,
The AABC staff wishes you a
blessed, Christ-filled holiday.

Carol

Phyllis

Randy

Jane



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Orlando, Florida
Permit # 2697

P.O. Box 780339
Orlando, Florida 32878-0339

Phone: 407-207-0808
Fax: 407-207-0840
E-mail: exdir@aabc.org
URL: <http://www.aabc.org>

A publication of The Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, the leader in Advancing and Assuring Quality Biblical Higher Education throughout North America

Dr. Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director Appointee

Dr. Randall E. Bell
Associate Director

Make a Note of It!

Upcoming Events

- **ACCESS Conference**
January 17-20, 2001
Moody Bible Institute
Chicago, IL
- **CHEA Annual Conference**
January 22-24, 2001
Inter-Continental Hotel
New Orleans, LA
- **NAICU Annual Meeting**
January 28-31, 2001
Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC
- **ABACC Annual Conference**
February 22-24, 2001
The Founders Inn
Virginia Beach, VA

Mark Your Calendar

AABC Annual Meeting



2001

February 15-17
Omni Hotel at CNN Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Featured Speakers:

- ❖ **Howard Hendricks**, Plenary Speaker
Dallas Theological Seminary
- ❖ **John Maxwell**, Plenary Speaker
INJOY Ministries
- ❖ **Luder G. Whitlock, Jr.**, Plenary Speaker
President, Reformed Theological Seminary
- ❖ **Ellen Lowrie Black, Samuel Chand & Tim Elmore (EQUIP Team)**, Pre-Convention Workshop
- ❖ **George Fischhoff**, Dramatic Presentation