



AABC

Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

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Route To:

NEWSLETTER



Ralph E. Enlow, Jr.
Executive Director

From the Director's Desk



In the last issue of the **AABC Newsletter**, I commented on the applicability to AABC of US Postal Service slogan, *We Deliver for You*. I emphasized that AABC colleges must increasingly be able to say, *We Deliver for You* by gathering and disseminating student **outcomes assessment** information. **Distance learning** represents a second area in which we need increasingly to be able to say, *We Deliver for You*.

Distance Learning. AABC colleges must work together – not compete with one another – to enhance and expand effective delivery of quality educational programs and services at a distance. Some of us are heavily engaged in distance learning via extension sites and independent study formats. On-line education is coming on like gangbusters. A number of our institutions are already involved in or are contemplating on-line courses and programs. But the required investment in technology and educational expertise exceeds the resources of most any individual institution. My emphasis here is not upon doing more distance learning, but upon improving the effectiveness with which we operate in distance modalities. AABC has a duty to foster responsible innovation while preserving Bible college values and educational goals – including goals for spiritual formation and ministry competence. Look for events and opportunities in the coming months as we seek to refine our *Criteria* and policies and to offer resources for the new technological horizons.

Meanwhile, if you haven't already done so, make your plans now to attend our vital annual meeting (see enclosed brochure) and give your thoughtful attention to the proposed *Criteria for Accreditation* and *AABC Bylaws* changes described in this issue. See you next month! D

Proposed Criteria and Policy Changes

Proposed Criteria change: Assessment & Planning. Public and member comment is invited concerning the following proposed changes relating to AABC's *Criteria for Accreditation* regarding assessment and planning. When congress passed the 1998 Higher Education Amendments, it re-ordered the criteria required of recognized accrediting agencies by placing assessment (particularly assessment of student learning) at the top of the list of required standards. The rationale for this action was that assessment of student learning should be first in priority among those standards established by accrediting bodies. The changes submitted for your review have been under consideration by AABC's Commission on Accreditation and Board of Directors for several years now. The Commission and Board have worked through several cycles of refinements of the proposal. Happily, the proposal is consistent with the priority placed on assessment by Congress. In keeping with AABC Bylaws (Article XI, Section 2) and our standard procedures, we are circulating these proposed *Criteria* changes among the membership and to AABC's public for study and feedback. The board intends that the proposed changes will be presented to delegates for adoption during the business session at the February 17-19, 2000 AABC annual meeting. It is, of course, possible that the proposal will be further refined based on member and public comments prior to presentation to delegates for a vote.

Proposed Criteria Revisions for Assessment and Planning

[~~strike through~~ = deleted text; **bold, italics** = new text]

A.3.0 Institutional goals *and educational program objectives*

A college must have clearly articulated and widely publicized institutional goals that are directly related to the college mission. ***Each educational program must also have clearly articulated and widely publicized objectives that support the college mission and institutional goals. Institutions should express these objectives, as much as possible, in terms of student achievement and other relevant student outcomes such as, for example, course completion rates, licensure examination results, and job placement rates. Institutional goals and program objectives should be written so that they can be measured or assessed as to how well they are being accomplished. Institutions must present evidence of broad trustee, administration, and faculty participation in the development and periodic review of institutional goals and educational program objectives.***

[Replace A.3.1 Outcomes relating to institutional goals, A.4.0 Specific objectives, A.4.1 Outcomes relating to objectives, and B.8.0 Planning with the following:]

A.4.0 Assessment and Planning

A college must demonstrate that it is accomplishing and can continue to accomplish its mission, institutional goals, and program objectives through a regular and comprehensive system of assessment and planning.

A.4.1 Assessment

A college must regularly and systematically assess its effectiveness in accomplishing its mission, institutional goals, and educational program objectives and must employ assessment findings to improve its effectiveness. Assessment must focus on actual outcomes or results, not input data, and must include quantitative as well as qualitative measures. The assessment process should utilize multiple measurement means. For

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2000 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 2000. 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; 10 = 10-year reaffirmation; 5 = 5-year reaffirmation)

2000

- Bethesda Christian University** (CA) - (IA) - April 3-5, 2000
- Calvary Bible College** (MO) - (RA) - March 1-3, 2000
- *Colegio Pentecostal Mizpa** (PR) - (IA) - Fall - TBA
- *Carver Bible College** (GA) - (IC) - October 9-11
- *Family of Faith College** (OK) - (IA) - Fall - TBA
- Heritage Baptist College** (ON) - (RA) - October 12-14, 2000
- *Hispanic Baptist Theological School** (TX) (IC) - March 8-10
- *The King's College** (CA) - (IC) - Mid April
- Life Bible College** (CA) - (RA) - March 7-10, 2000
- North American Baptist College** (AB)-(RA) - January 24-26
- *Northwest Bible College** (AB) - (IA) - March 20-22, 2000
- *South Florida Bible College** (FL)-(IC) - Fall - TBA
- Trinity Bible College** (ND) - (RA) - February 28 - March 1, 2000
- Wesley College** (MS) - (RA) - October 9-11, 2000
- Western Pentecostal Bible College** (BC) - (RA) - October 2-4
- *Winston Salem Bible College** (NC) - (IC) - April 26-28

*** Pending Approval of a Team Visit by the Commission on Accreditation**

Criteria Revisions (Cont'd from Page 1)

Proposed Criteria Revisions for Assessment and Planning

[~~strike through~~ = deleted text; **bold**, *italics* = new text]

example, measurements for academic program objectives may include such means as standardized tests, pre- and post-tests, surveys, program enrollment trends, graduation and placement rates, student portfolios, and senior projects.

Assessment should lead to demonstrable improvements in accomplishing the college's mission, goals, and objectives. The assessment process and product must be documented in a written assessment plan. The written plan must identify the elements being assessed, office(s) responsible for conducting the assessment of each element, the means and frequency with which each element is assessed, the results of the assessment of each element, and the use of the results to improve the institution. A written assessment plan must be submitted with the self-study report.

A. 4.2 Planning

A college must regularly and systematically engage in planning for the future. Such planning must be based upon its assessment of how well it is accomplishing its mission, institutional goals, and program objectives (see A.3.0 and A.4.1).

The planning process must identify and address strategic issues for the institution in the context of the Criteria for Accreditation. The planning process must be organized, broadly based, and board-approved. It must result in a planning document that encompasses more than one year.

The planning process and resulting document should address at least such key issues as: why the college exists (mission), how it is doing (assessment), what it should do in the future (vision), and how it can improve (strategies and action steps). Any strategies or action steps resulting from the planning process must be linked to realistic resource projections (e.g., in finances, facilities, personnel, etc.). A written description of the planning process and the planning schedule must also be included. An institutional planning document must be submitted with the self-study report.

[Proposed 2/99 Commission on Accreditation; staff revision 4/99; Board of Directors' review/approval 10/99; circulated to membership in advance of motion to adopt 2/00]

Proposed Bylaws change: Deletion of Standing Committee on Canadian Bible College Educa-

tion. At its May 1999 meeting, the Committee on Canadian Bible College Education acted to recommend discontinuation of the Committee as an AABC standing committee. In a June 29, 1999 letter to the AABC board of directors, committee chairman Paul Magnus cited the committee's threefold rationale for this decision: (a) sufficient Canadian representation on the AABC board of directors and other standing committees; (b) the viability and vitality of the Association of Canadian Bible Colleges as a forum in which distinctively Canadian issues may be addressed; and (c) the substantial proportion of accredited Canadian Bible colleges within AABC which ensures adequate representation in collective decision making. The AABC board of directors acted at its October 1999 meeting to endorse the recommendation and directed that amendments to association bylaws be drafted to implement this change. Pending comments and feedback, the board anticipates adoption of the proposed bylaw amendments at its February 2000 meeting.

ARTICLE X - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committee on Communication

a. Function

The Committee on Communication will promote cooperation among member colleges and communicate the association's distinctives of higher education to society.

b. Organization

1. The Committee on Communication will consist of five members from accredited member colleges.
2. Committee members will be appointed by the Board of Directors in consultation with the executive director on the basis of the association's "Policy on Committee Selection."
3. Committee members will serve three-year staggered terms and may succeed themselves for one additional term. Committee members serving two years of an unexpired term will be deemed to have served one term.
4. The committee's chair will determine the committee's agenda in consultation with the executive director. The committee annually appoint a secretary from among its members. The secretary will keep minutes of the committee's deliberations and will place copies in the custody of the executive director.
5. The Committee on Communication will facilitate the achievement of the association's communications function by overseeing efforts to develop and promote; publications, an annual directory, an annual statistical report, a referral service, articles in various periodicals, awareness of governmental and legal issues, an interpretation of biblical higher education to public decision-makers, foundation research, marketing of biblical higher education, and other communication services.

c. Meetings

The Committee on Communication will meet annually, just prior to the association's annual meeting. The committee may, in consultation with the executive director, schedule additional meetings and consultations,

Bylaw Change (Cont'd from Page 2)

as necessary and feasible. The precise time and place of the meetings are to be determined by the committee chair in consultation with the executive director.

Section 2. Standing Committee on Professional Development

- a. The Committee on Professional Development will provide services that will stimulate excellence among member college administrators, faculty, and students.
1. The Committee on Professional Development will consist of five members from accredited member colleges.
 2. Members will be appointed by the Board of Directors in consultation with the executive director on the basis of the association's "Policy on Committee Selection."
 3. Members will serve three-year staggered terms and may succeed themselves for one additional term. Members serving two years of an unexpired term will be deemed to have served one term.
 4. The committee's chair will determine the committee's agenda in consultation with the executive director. The committee will annually appoint a secretary from among its members. The secretary will keep minutes of the committee's deliberations and will place copies in the custody of the executive director.
 5. The Committee on Professional Development will facilitate the achievement of the association's professional development function by overseeing efforts to promote scholarship among association college faculty members and students, conferences and annual meetings for administrators, faculty members, and students, and the development of assessment instruments.
- b. Meetings
The Committee on Professional Development will meet annually, just prior to the association's annual meeting. The committee will also have a semiannual meeting, if necessary. The precise time and place of the meetings are to be determined by the committee chair in consultation with the executive director.

Section 3. Standing Committee for Canadian Bible College Education

- a. Functions
1. ~~To advise the association concerning educational problems and opportunities in Canada.~~
 2. ~~To represent Canadian member colleges to governmental and educational authorities in Canada.~~
 3. ~~To provide the executive office with information concerning issues and trends of an educational and governmental nature that will affect the well-being of member colleges. This information then is to be disseminated by the executive office through its Newsletter or by other means.~~
 4. ~~To encourage Canadian Bible colleges toward accreditation and, upon request by the executive director, to assist in the consultative process.~~
- b. Organization
1. ~~The committee will consist of five members from accredited member colleges.~~
 2. ~~Committee members will be appointed by the Board of Directors in consultation with the executive director on the basis of the association's "Policy on Committee Selection."~~
 3. ~~Committee members will serve three-year staggered terms and may succeed themselves for one additional term. Members serving two years of an unexpired term will be deemed to have served one term.~~
 4. ~~The committee's chair will determine the committee's agenda in consultation with the executive director. The committee will annually appoint a secretary from among its members. The secretary will keep minutes of the committee's deliberations and will place copies in the custody of the executive director.~~
- c. Meetings
~~The committee will meet twice per year, in February prior to the AABC convention, and in May prior to the Association of Canadian Bible Colleges (ACBC) meeting. Other special meetings can be scheduled at the discretion of the chair.~~

Section 4. Standing Committee on Ethnic Diversity**Section 3. Standing Committee on Ethnic Diversity**

- a. Function
The Committee on Ethnic Diversity will promote Bible college education among ethnically diverse constituencies. Specifically, the committee will endeavor:
1. To help the association gain insight into the unique needs of ethnically diverse colleges and branch campuses as they attempt to meet such accreditation requirements as enrollment, curriculum, finances, facilities, and faculty.
 2. To offer guidelines to association colleges in developing programs to recruit and to serve the needs of ethnically diverse students.
 3. To be an available resource to colleges predominantly and historically serving ethnic minorities in their ongoing relations within the association.
- b. Organization
1. The committee will consist of five members from accredited member colleges.
 2. Committee members will be appointed by the Board of Directors in consultation with the executive director on the basis of the association's "Policy on Committee Selection."
 3. Committee members will serve three-year staggered terms and may succeed themselves for one additional term. Committee members serving two years of an unexpired term will be deemed to have served one term.
 4. The committee's chair will determine the committee's agenda in consultation with the executive director. The committee will annually appoint a secretary from among its members. The secretary will keep minutes of the committee's deliberations and will place copies in the custody of the executive director.



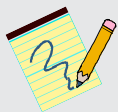
P.O. Box 780339
Orlando, Florida 32878-0339

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

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Dr. Ralph E. Enlow, Jr.
Executive Director

Dr. Randall E. Bell
Associate Director



Make a Note of It!

Don't forget to send in your registration form for the Annual Meeting with payment to AABC as soon as possible. Please make note that the late fee schedule for the convention is now in effect. We will accept registrations right up to conference time. Also, don't forget to make your reservations at the Omni-Rosen immediately to ensure a room. Time is running out on our room block.

We look forward to seeing you in February!

Mark Your Calendar AABC Annual Meeting

2001

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

Special Features:

- ❖ Pre-Convention Workshop with **Dr. Robert Andringa**: *Governance*
- ❖ **Howard Hendricks**, Plenary Speaker

Upcoming Events

- **Association for Christians in Student Development (ACSA)**
Annual Conference, June 5-8, 2000
Taylor University (IN)
- **Association of Canadian Bible Colleges (ACBC)** Annual Conference
May 25-27, 2000, Prairie Bible College (AB)