



Winter Issue
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Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges

Route To:

N E W S L E T T E R



Dr. Larry J. McKinney
Executive Director

From the Director's Desk



AABC: AN ORGANIZATION OR A MOVEMENT?

Over the years, I have become aware of a qualitative difference among organizations. Most organizations are just organizations, collections of people and assets that serve a particular purpose. Sometimes they thrive, sometimes they don't. They meet certain needs and have a certain legitimacy in society.

Then there are other exceptional organizations that we can more precisely call movements. Movements serve as models of energy and devotion to a compelling cause. They illustrate new ways of working together. They set new standards and make great contributions. They give us an opportunity for realized potential.

Knowing that this year marks the 55th Anniversary of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges and the 120th Anniversary of the Bible college movement in North America, it begs the question—Is AABC an organization or a movement?

There is no question but that AABC is an organization. We are a recognized higher education agency with the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. We have the common characteristics of an organization: a constitution and by laws, an organizational structure, a mission statement, a board, a commission, committees, an office, employees, membership, and a budget. We are even a registered charity. We have a 55 year history as a higher education organization that is committed to advancing and assuring quality biblical higher education. We are an organization.

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But our organization also grew out of a dynamic movement. From the humble beginnings of the Missionary Training Institute (Nyack College) in New York City in 1882 to the launching of such schools as Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in 1886 and Toronto Bible School (Tyndale College & Seminary) in 1894, the Bible college movement has proliferated throughout North America over the last 120 years. This movement has had a profound influence on evangelical Protestantism. Its impact has been felt in every part of the world, producing a large percentage of North American evangelical missionaries and serving as a primary training center for local church leadership. This movement has been fueled by dynamic leaders who have had a passion for evangelism and unwavering commitment to solid biblical teaching and to equipping men and women for Christian service.

But like so many dynamic movements, energy and vision may be replaced with routine patterns of operation. The movement becomes only an organization! Has this happened with the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges? While we have matured as an accrediting association and have gained greater recognition with the larger academic community, is it possible that we have also lost some of our passion? Are we still having an impact on the church and the community? What must we do to remain a healthy and vital force for biblical higher education?

Max De Pree, in his refreshing book *Leading Without Power*, responded to the question, what is a movement? In so doing, he cited several requirements that movements seem to meet:

- **Leadership**- a leadership that enables, enriches, and holds accountable.
- **Competence**- a competence in relationships as well as technical competence.
- **Creativity**- a process of discovery to bring about necessary change.
- **Synergy**- a context where people respect each other and work for a common goal.

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- **Vision**- a vision that enables people to look into the future and make a difference.

I regret that time and space do not permit me to develop the preceding points more fully. However, I ask you to reflect on the current role and impact of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges in light of these requirements. How do you rate our effectiveness as an organization and as a movement?

We are now into the 21st Century. Y2K is behind us. We are 120 years into this thing called Bible college education and 55 years into the accreditation business. There are many challenges that face us as an Association. Will it be possible for biblical higher education to remain distinctive and yet varied? Is it possible to teach an increasing number of liberal arts and professional courses and still maintain a strong core of biblical and theological studies? Can Bible colleges be academically respectable and still foster a heart for Christian service?

The answers to these questions will help to determine the future direction of our colleges and our association. It must be remembered, however, that our institutions and our association will change. This has been the pattern of the Bible college movement for the past 120 years as it has adjusted its curricula and its programs to meet the needs of a changing church and a changing society. The same sensitivity to time and culture must continue if we are to be relevant.

Is AABC an ORGANIZATION or a MOVEMENT? YES! We want to be organizationally responsible but we also want to be educationally and spiritually relevant. ❖

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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 2002. 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@aacbc.org.

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

2002

Alaska Bible College (AK) - RA

Spring 2002 (Date TBD)

Alberta Bible College (AB) - IC

Date TBD

American Baptist College (TN) - RA

Date TBD

Beulah Hghts Bible College (GA) - RA

March 6-9, 2002

Central Christian Clg. of Bible (MO)-RA

April 8-10, 2002

Emmanuel Bible College (ON) - RA

Fall 2002 (Date TBD)

Huntsville Baptist College (AL) - IC

January 15-17, 2001

John Wesley College (NC) - RA

March 18-20, 2002

New Orleans School of

Urban Missions (LA) - IC

Spring 2002 (Date TBD)

Proposed Criteria Changes

Proposed Criteria Revisions for Governance and Administration

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

B. Governance and administration

Standard B: The institution must have established adequate structures and procedures for governance and administration to achieve its mission.

Criteria:

B.1.0 Constitution and bylaws

A college must have its constitution and bylaws that clearly and comprehensively provide a basis for college administration and governance. Lines of authority and areas of responsibility must be explicit.

B.2.0 Board of control

A college must have a board of control that is the controlling body of the institution and that determines policy in the areas of administration, business management, academic affairs, and student life. Its functions include but ~~are~~ **should** not **be** limited to appointing and, when necessary, removing the president; conserving and developing financial resources; serving as legal custodians of college property; controlling major physical change and development; approving, upon recommendation, all administrative officers and college faculty; approving the annual budget, including all tuition and fee charges; approving all official institutional documents; and representing the college both in relation to student recruitment and in relation to the raising of financial support.

B.2.1 Denominational/**Congregational** control

If controlled denominationally, the denomination must have delegated to the board of control the responsibility of carrying out the denomination's purposes for the college. Whereas the denomination may appoint or remove the president, it must not directly administer college affairs, but rather hold the board responsible through appointments, reports, and audits. Colleges controlled by a denomination must receive substantial direct financial support from the denomination.

B.2.2 Organization of the board

A college must follow good organizational principles with respect to ~~it's~~ the **selection, formation, training, and functioning of the** board.

B.2.2.1 Representation on the board

The board ~~is to~~ **should** be representative of the college's constituency with sensitivity to ~~minority~~ **diverse ethnic** representation and to gender representation as permitted ecclesiastically and theologically.

B.2.2.2 Board composition

A board should include members with professional expertise; wherever possible these should include members with expertise in education, finance, business, law, and **vocational** ministry. Members ~~are~~ **must** not ~~to~~ benefit from their positions so as to constitute a conflict of interest. Neither ~~is~~ **should** any member ~~to~~ exercise power as an individual in making decisions affecting the college.

B.2.2.3 Size of the board

The board ~~is to~~ **should** be of appropriate size both to represent the constituency and to function efficiently **with respect to the formation, training and functioning of the board**.

B.2.2.4 Selection of the board members

Procedures for the selection of board members ~~are to~~ **should** be clearly delineated in the college bylaws. **Appropriate measures must be taken to orient and train board members for their task.**

B.2.2.5 Terms of office for board members

Except for ex officio officers, terms of office for board members ~~are to~~ **should** be at least three years, to allow members to become acquainted with their obligations and duties.

B.2.2.6 Rotation of board members

Terms of office ~~are to~~ **should** overlap in order to ensure that at all times a majority of the board be experienced members. In addition, a system of rotation should be adopted which encourages the inclusion of new board members.

B.2.2.7 Frequency of board meetings

The board ~~is to~~ **must** meet at least two times per year, but not so frequently that it becomes involved in the administration of the college.

B.2.2.8 Board committees

The board ~~is to~~ **should** have standing committees in major areas of concern, e.g., academics, planning, personnel, and finance.

B.2.2.9 Executive committee of the board

The board ~~is to~~ **should** select from its members an executive committee to act on behalf of the board between meetings.

B.2.3.0 Board relation to college faculty and staff

The president ~~is~~ **must be** the only college employee who may serve on the board. In no case, however, is the president to serve either officially or unofficially as the board chair. At the invitation of the president, other college administrators may serve the board in a consultative capacity. The board should concentrate its attention on matters of policy. Board members should not circumvent the president in communication with members of the college community. It is expected that the president would be a participant in all affairs of the board except as mutually agreed.

B.3.0 Administrative organization

A college must follow organizational principles appropriate to the size and complexity of the institution with respect to its administration.

B.3.1 Administrative council

An administrative council ~~is to~~ **should give overall administrative leadership for the college and** meets on a regular basis. ~~in order to provide overall administrative leadership for the college.~~ It typically includes a team of chief administrative officers.

B.3.2 Administrative officers

Administrative officers of the college ~~are~~ **should be** subject to approval by the board upon recommendation of the president. They should be qualified individuals who offer administrative expertise in their particular areas of responsibility. Tenure does not apply to any administrative position. **Colleges typically have the following positions.**

B.3.2.1 President

The college president, as the chief executive officer of the institution, ~~is~~ **must be** responsible to the board for the execution of its policies. All administrative officers

LARRY J. MCKINNEY
WINTER/SPRING, 2002 SCHEDULE

January

- 5 Lancaster Bible College (PA)
- 11-12 Review of AABC Standards Committee-Orlando
- 21-23 CHEA Conference-San Francisco
- 24 San Jose Christian College (CA)
- 25 Florida Commission on Independent Education-Orlando
- 28 Nazarene Bible College (CO)
- 29-2/2 CSA Conference-Denver

February

- 11-12 AABC Board of Directors
- 13 AABC Standing Committees
- 14-16 AABC Annual Meeting**
- 26 Williamson Christian College (TN)
- 27 Free Will Baptist Bible College (TN)
- 27 American Baptist College (TN)
- 28 Tennessee Temple University (TN)

March

- 1 Johnson Bible College (TN)
- 19 College of Biblical Studies (TX)
- 20 Arlington Baptist College (TX)
- 20 Dallas Christian College (TX)
- 21 Southwestern Assemblies of God University (TX)
- 26 NAICU Secretariat-Washington, D.C.
- 27 Executives in Church-Related Higher Education-Washington, D.C.
- 12-13 Review of AABC Standards Committee-Orlando

(Cont'd , Page 4) ⇨

report either directly or indirectly to him *the president*.

B.3.2.2 Chief academic officer

The chief academic officer of the college is *should be* responsible to the president for all academic personnel and functions.

B.3.2.3 Chief student personnel officer

The chief student personnel officer normally is *should be* responsible to the president for all counseling and student services.

B.3.2.4 Chief financial officer

The chief financial officer is *should be* responsible to the president for all the business and financial affairs of the college.

B.3.2.5 Chief development officer

The chief development officer normally is *should be* responsible to the president for all aspects of the college's development program.

B.3.3 Administrative policies and practices

The job descriptions of each administrative officer and the administrative policies and practices must be recorded in an administrative manual or handbook.

B.4.0 Administrative records

A college must ~~have~~ *maintain processes that provide* complete, accurate, legible, and securely ~~maintained~~ records. These ~~are to~~ *should* include board-of-control minutes, *administrative council minutes*, faculty minutes, college personnel files, student personnel files, audited statements, and annual reports of the administrative officers.

B.4.1 The college shall establish written policy with respect to the maintenance of records.

B.5.0 Business administration

A college must follow principles of sound business and financial management.

B.5.1 Organization of business functions

All business functions ~~are to~~ *should* be organized under the chief financial officer, including purchasing, collections, budgetary control, payments, bookkeeping, supervision of student financial activities, and preparation of financial reports.

B.5.1.1 Board of control

The board of control is ~~to~~ *should* determine all policies of business management, hold tangible and intangible properties in trust, authorize budgets, authorize developments, and assume full authority for policies related to bonds, annuities, investments, and debt.

B.5.1.2 Internal control

A college must have a comprehensive system of internal control in which the work of each individual is subject to review by another person.

B.5.2 Accounting standards

College finances must be reported according to appropriate and applicable accounting principles as set out by FASB for U.S. schools and CICA for Canadian schools. The financial statements, which must be verified by an annual audit, must detail the operation

LARRY J. MCKINNEY WINTER/SPRING, 2002 SCHEDULE

April

- 15 Lincoln Christian College (IL)
- 16 Central Christian College of Bible (MO)
- 16 Calvary Bible College (MO)
- 17 Central Bible College (MO)
- 17 Baptist Bible College (MO)
- 18 Ozark Christian College (MO)
- 19 St. Louis Christian College (MO)

May

- 22 Heritage Baptist College (ON)
- 22 Emmanuel Bible College (ON)
- 23-25 Association of Canadian Bible Colleges Conference-Tyndale College

Congress Finalizes a \$4,000 Pell Maximum for FY 2002

Only a few weeks ago, any increase in the Pell Grant maximum from its current level of \$3,750 seemed impossible. But thanks to your phone calls, letters, and e-mails to members of Congress -- particularly the education appropriations conferees -- the FY 2002 Pell maximum has been increased to \$4,000. ❖

GI Bill Benefits Increased

Congress has approved a substantial increase in the education benefits available under the Montgomery GI Bill.

Benefits will increase in three stages, in January 2002, October 2002, and October 2003. At the third stage, maximum benefits will be more than 50 percent higher than current levels. ❖

of the college to clearly and accurately summarize the year's transactions and year-end positions. The statements should reflect revenue and expenditure comparisons in appended schedules. *The annual certified audit must be made available to the public upon request.*

B.5.3 Budgeting

A college must have clear procedures for and wide participation in the preparation, adoption, and control of the budget. The budget ~~is to~~ *should* be prepared under the supervision of the college president, with the assistance of the appropriate personnel, and submitted to the board for approval several months prior to the close of the current fiscal year. Except in cases of extreme emergency, no significant expenditures should be made in excess of budgetary appropriation without official approval of the board.

B.5.4 Investments

The board of control must have policies for and control of investment funds. An exemplary investment policy should include *both* the diversification *and ethical implications* of investments and the careful safeguarding of all trust funds.

B.5.5 Business records

A college must have, in addition to the regular ledger and journal records, detailed records of pledges, annuities, bonds, loans, investments, securities, insurance, student loans, scholarships, yearly budget reports, and annual financial reports.

B.5.5.1 Collection of student accounts

A college should insist that students meet their obligations promptly. ~~With reference to unpaid balances at the end of the academic year, each such case must be represented by a promissory note or other legal instrument of assured repayment.~~ *A college should have policies and procedures in place that demonstrate students are meeting their financial obligations.*

B.6.0 Development

~~A college must have a development program based upon~~ *A college must systematically maintain a development program supported by appropriate trained personnel. The program should ensure sufficient resources to accomplish the college's mission. It will be based upon* a clearly written philosophy that incorporates biblical values, ethical standards, and donor and institutional responsibility. Donor lists ~~are to~~ *must* be respected, and all monies used strictly for their intended purposes. An exemplary college ~~will~~ *should* 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.

B.7.0 Public relations

A college must ~~have~~ *systematically maintain* a comprehensive program to engender public confidence in the college. Such a program should be based upon a clearly written philosophy that incorporates biblical principles, ethical practices, approved social relationships, and service to the community.

B.7.1 Alumni

A college should encourage former students to participate in the development of the institution and to assist in the evaluation of institutional effectiveness. The relationship between a college and its alumni should not, however, be such that the alumni exercise undue influence over the board of control.

Successful Review With U.S. Department of Education

By: Dr. Larry McKinney
AABC Executive Director

Dr. Bell and I met with the National Advisory Commission on Institutional Quality and Integrity of the U.S. Department of Education for a successful review on December 10. Our AABC Commission on Accreditation was unanimously recommended for renewal of recognition for another five years. This recognition, which must be reviewed every five years, enables candidate and accredited institutions to gain eligibility for participation in the Title IV student assistance programs. It is expected that the Secretary of Education will issue his letter indicating agreement with the NACIQI in the near future.

There are two issues that we are required to address relative to the USDE Criteria for Recognition: (a) "The Commission will need to demonstrate the involvement of all its constituencies, including students, in the review of its criteria." I am pleased to report this type of broad representation is already present on our Review of Standards Committee and will satisfy the USDE standard. (b) "The Commission on Accreditation will need to develop and determine its own budget without input from the Board or Association." This recommendation relates to "the separate and independent" clause in the USDE standards. This is the reason why the budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting will be divided. The accreditation budget will be presented to the Commission on Accreditation and the administration/services budget will be presented to the Board and the full membership.

I am pleased that we are able to address both of these issues without major difficulty. ❖



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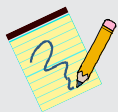
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Make a Note of It!
Upcoming Events

- **Commission on Accreditation**
February 10-13, 2002
Hyatt Orlando
Orlando, Florida
- **AABC Board of Directors Meeting**
February 11-12, 2002
Hyatt Orlando
Orlando, Florida
- **Review of Standards Committee**
April 12-13, 2002
AABC Office
Orlando, Florida
- **Association of Canadian Bible Colleges Conference (ACBC)**
May 23-25, 2002
Tyndale College
Ontario, Canada

Mark Your Calendar
AABC Annual Meeting



2002

February 14-16
The Hyatt Orlando
Orlando, Florida

Guest Artist/Worship Leader:

- **Richard Allen Farmer**
Dean of the Chapel, Taylor University

Pre-Convention Workshop:
Governance & Trusteeship

- **Dr. Robert Andringa**, President
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Theme:

Celebrating Biblical Higher Education

Plenary Speakers:

- **Dr. Robert Andringa**, President
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
- **Dr. Kenneth Gangel**
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dallas Theological Seminary;
Scholar-in-Residence, Toccoa Falls College
- **Dr. George Murray**, President
Columbia International University
- **Dr. Don Page**, Dean/Graduate Studies
Trinity Western University