

ASPA NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF SPECIALIZED & PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITORS

TRAINING THE TRAINER: GOOD PRACTICE IN SITE VISITOR TRAINING

July 2006

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CHAIR'S REMARKS

By MARY JANE HARRIS, CAPTE: PHYSICAL THERAPY;
CHAIR, ASPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear ASPA Members and Friends:

In my message a year ago, I made reference to Virgil's comment that "*fugit irreparabile tempus*" (time is flying, never to return). This year, despite looking for another reference to express the same feeling, I find myself back at my previous sentiment: *tempus* really does *fugit* when you're busy. It is hard to believe that my second term as Chair of the ASPA Board of Directors is over -- much has happened during the past year and it has kept all of us occupied with a myriad of activities.

I described many of them in my January 2006 message, so this message will focus on what has been going on since then.

I'm pleased to report that the Spring 2006 ASPA meeting in Chicago was well-attended and very successful. Among other items of business, we adopted revised bylaws, thus completing a process that began a year ago. Kudos go to the Bylaws Revision Task Force--Patti Tice (ASHA: Speech-Language-Hearing), Carol Bobby (CACREP: Counseling), John McCarty (ARC-PA: Physician Assistant), and Brian Andrew (ASPA Board of Directors)--for presenting a draft that streamlined ASPA's processes and addressed issues that had emerged since the 2002 revision. Other actions taken at the meeting include the creation of two task forces: one to consider the development of an accreditation glossary, and the other to work on consolidation of ASPA's "historical" documents into one that will better meet our needs as we look toward the future. In addition, we had very useful discussions about:

- the AQIP process used by the Higher Learning Commission
- legal issues in accreditation
- updates on reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA)
- implications of the Spellings Commission on the Future of Higher Education
- procedures used by one of our new members: Global Accreditation Center for Project Management

The professional development session topic was Assessment of Program Outcomes. The program was very well received and resulted in suggestions for more meetings that bring together representatives from the specialized and institutional accrediting communities, the state higher education regulatory bodies and the higher education community.

In addition, ASPA was pleased to continue its support of meetings of representatives from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP) and the organizations that accredit many of the programs in those schools. At the meeting in Chicago, which had the largest attendance so far, the group developed an agenda for an Accreditation Summit to be sponsored by ASAHP in August.

Keeping abreast of the events related to recognition by USDE and CHEA continues to feel like a full-time job. The work of the External Recognition Issues Committee (formerly the Recognition Issues Committee) appears endless. Representatives of the Committee have attended several meetings related to HEA reauthorization—especially as it relates to the issue of public information. We have also been represented at discussions related to the Future of Higher Education Commission. In a related activity, Cynthia Davenport and Karen Kershenstein continue to provide us with timely and insightful reports on the meetings of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the CHEA Board of Directors.

The ASPA Board of Directors met in April, with Steve Crow representing C-RAC, to plan for the Fall 2006 meeting in Denver, the first day of which will be with our regional accreditation colleagues, and for activities that will lead to the attainment of the 2007 Goals that were adopted at the Business Meeting. The Professional Development Committee continues to plan activities to enhance the membership's knowledge and abilities. Plans for the Fall 2006 meeting are outlined elsewhere in *ASPANews*.

One of the issues discussed by the Board is whether there is merit to considering expanding the definition of "specialized" (as in Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors) to include "special purpose" accreditors whose programs or schools do not necessarily educate students for entry into a specific discipline or field. If we were to do so, some credible accrediting organizations not currently qualified for ASPA membership would become eligible, thus providing ASPA with a new arena through which we might expand our membership. There are clear advantages to doing this, but there are also some disadvantages, so the issue needs to be discussed in detail by the membership. Please give some thought to this issue; I expect that it will show up on the business agenda in Denver. And speaking of Denver, please consider what other business you'd like to discuss and let us know.

ASPA is your organization and we need to hear from you.

I expect that with all there is to do, *tempus* will continue to *fugit*. In the meantime, I'd like to thank you for your confidence in my leadership over the past year as expressed in my reelection for another term on the Board of Directors and as Chair. I look forward to serving you. If there is any way that I can do that better, please let me know. U

COMMITTEE GETS "ENERGIZER BUNNY" AWARD



Pictured from Left to Right: Mary Jane Harris, Jennifer Butlin, Kathy Megivern, Joanne Greathouse, & Elaine Cuklanz

The "keeps on going" effort of the ASPA Recognition Issues Committee (now re-named the External Recognition Issues Committee) was acknowledged during the Spring 2006 meeting. Members received a small token of appreciation for their extraordinary effort to represent ASPA members' views, often at the same time, to CHEA as its recognition requirements were revised and to the US House and Senate, USDE, and other relevant parties as reauthorization of the Higher Education Act has progressed. Members at the meeting received a hearty round of applause from their grateful colleagues.

The committee includes, chair, Jennifer Butlin, CCNE: Nursing, and members, Elaine Cuklanz, JRCNMT: Nuclear Medicine Technology; Bernard Fryshman, AARTS: Rabbinical and Talmudic; Joanne Greathouse, JRCERT: Radiologic Technology; Samuel Hope and Karen Moynahan, NASAD, NASD, NASM, NAST: Arts Accreditation; Kathleen Megivern, CAAHEP: Allied Health; Karen O'Brien, ALA: Library and Information Studies; Loretta Waldron, CPME: Podiatric Medicine. U

BOOKS AND BYTES: THE ALA AND AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

For many ASPA members, I imagine, there are few pleasures richer than a visit to a good library. Many of us recall from our youth enjoyable hours in school and community libraries. And our college libraries offered—and continue to offer—so much: a source of information, a supportive location for study and discovery, a quiet refuge from a society of “infinite interruptability,” even a social setting where friendships (and romances) may develop slowly and gracefully.

Most remarkable about our experiences of libraries? Their consistency. American libraries I have used include the Carnegie library in Edwardsville, Illinois, the base library at Barksdale Air Force Base, the public library in Hammond, Louisiana, and university libraries at Yale, Harvard, Indiana, and the University of Virginia. I have never had a bad experience at a library! Perhaps you feel the same way.

How to explain this? An important answer lies in the values of an ASPA member, the American Library Association, and in its commitment to the maintenance through accreditation of high, consistent standards. In the context of a national report on librarianship published with support of the Carnegie Foundation, the American Library Association, founded in 1876, established in 1924 its Board of Education for Librarianship. Moving with alacrity, the Board established standards for schools of librarianship and, one year later, published a list of schools meeting those standards. Fast—and important—work!

By and large, these standards served libraries and librarians well. Substantive revisions adopted by the ALA Governing Council in 1992 reflect the spirit of the early work, in that the new standards, intended to be “indicative, not prescriptive, with the intent to foster excellence through the development of criteria for evaluating educational effectiveness,” have won broad approval. Recent surveys of the profession by a standards review committee affirmed for the most part the continued relevance and usefulness of the 1992 standards. Whether discussions now under way will lead to a more prescriptive approach remains to be seen.

The ALA Board of Education, now the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA), is charged to “execute the accreditation program of ALA, and to develop and formulate standards of education for library and information studies for the approval of Council.” Its twelve members—five academics, five

practitioners, and two public members—are appointed by ALA presidents-elect. On behalf of some 64,000 members around the world, the ALA Office for Accreditation administers implementation of the accreditation program in accordance with COA decisions for the profession and the public interest.

Although libraries have traditionally represented a secure venue for learning and culture, “conservative” in the best sense of the word, they are increasingly taking the lead in managing access to an explosion of knowledge on behalf of an increasingly diversified culture.

Maintaining consistently high standards of service and performance in such an environment represents an obvious challenge, one the ALA (and its Committee on Accreditation) has shown itself capable of managing with aplomb. U

Adapted by Paul Gaston, ASPA Board Member & Provost, Kent State University, from a report provided by the ALA.

C-RAC JOINS ASPA IN DENVER

Plan now to join ASPA in Denver for our Sunday, September 10 program with C-RAC: the Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions. The executive directors of the regional accrediting organizations will meet with ASPA for a full-day interactive program. Each program segment will include significant time for discussion. The day will begin at 8:30am and is divided into three main topics: “National Contexts,” the “Changing Components of Higher Education,” and “Practicing Effective Accreditation.” The day will end with “Technology Share Time,” followed by the Sunday evening reception at 5:00 pm. See the ASPA web site - www.aspa-usa.org - and the schedule included in this mailing for more detailed information. U

“LOOKING TO THE FUTURE” WITH THE HLC

Once again several ASPA-member accreditors accepted an invitation from The Higher Learning Commission to participate in their annual meeting. Panelists spoke briefly on the conference theme and responded to general questions. Roundtable discussions gave each participant a chance to answer discipline-specific questions. More than 30 people attended this session. ASPA thanks Gloria Rogers (ABET: Engineering & Computer Science), Pete Vlasses (ACPE: Pharmacy), Karen O'Brien (ALA: Library), Joseph Long (CAAHEP: Allied Health), Judy Jondahl (CRB-AAMAE: Medical Assistants), Olive Kimball (NAACLS: Clinical Laboratory Sciences), Karen Moynahan (NASM (Music), NASAD (Art/Design), NAST (Theatre), NASD (Dance)) and Brenda Nichols (NLNAC: Nursing) for participating in this event. U

TRAINING THE TRAINER: GOOD PRACTICE IN SITE VISITOR TRAINING

Make your reservations now to attend the Fall 2006 Professional Development session in Denver. Every accrediting organization depends on effective site visitor training to ensure that its pool of volunteer site visitors interpret the accreditation standards in a consistent manner and are well prepared to serve as the eyes and ears of each accrediting group's decision-making body. The fall program will look at training from the perspective of effective adult learning and will help those in attendance go home feeling that they have become better prepared to do this kind of training. Principles of adult learning will be woven into an interactive program that will begin on Monday afternoon, September 11, and conclude at noon on Tuesday. U

MEMBER MEETINGS ON MONDAY MORNING

Monday morning, September 11, will be devoted to two member meetings. The first will convene at 8:30 am and is open only to ASPA members and board members. Non-member accreditors and guests who attend the Denver meeting are invited to join members for the business meeting which will begin at 10:30 am. ASPA's newly revised *Bylaws* put increased responsibility on members to raise issues of concern for discussion during the business meeting. Please forward issues to the ASPA office during July to be placed on the meeting agenda. Other issues may emerge from the Sunday program and still others may be raised during the meeting, as time permits. Note that a continental breakfast will be available for all attendees starting at about 7:45 am on Monday. U

NOTE:

Schedules and registration forms are also available in the MEETINGS section of the ASPA web site: www.aspa-usa.org.

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2006 ASPA COMPENSATION SURVEY COMPLETED

The results and detailed analysis of the 2006 ASPA Compensation and Benefits survey were released to all survey participants in early July. In mid-March 72 specialized accrediting organizations received an invitation to participate in the survey and were sent a unique ID for access to the survey. By the time the survey was closed on May 30, ASPA had received 62 responses for a response rate of 85% - a much higher rate than when the survey was previously conducted. The 2006 data analysis included reports that link salary data to the number of accredited programs in addition to budget size. This is the fourth time ASPA has conducted the survey and provided this service to the broad community of specialized and professional accreditors, i.e., non-members as well as members of ASPA. U

SEEKING SUGGESTIONS

The ASPA Spring Professional Development Sub-committee is actively seeking suggestions for topics for the Spring 2007 meeting. The committee is considering the possibility of presenting three or four short topics instead of focusing on one major issue. Please share your ideas for topics lending themselves to the shorter format. Send your suggestions to aspa@aspa-usa.org. They will be forwarded to Lisa Zuber, chair, and members, Jenny Gunderman, George Payan, Gretchen Warner. We look forward to hearing from you! U



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Date: July 14, 2006

ASPA NEWS is Edited/Produced in JANUARY and July
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