
6C

Information

Professional Services Committee

Implementation of the Accreditation System

AGENDA INSERT

Executive Summary: This item provides an update on the implementation of the revised accreditation system. In addition, the item presents proposed revisions to the Commission's Common Standards and the Committee on Accreditation's (COA) proposal for improved communication between the Commission and COA.

Recommended Action: For information only.

Presenters: Teri Clark, Administrator; Cheryl Hickey, Consultant; and Jo Birdsell, Consultant, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators.
- ◆ Implement, monitor and report on the outcomes of new program initiatives.

March 2007



February 28, 2007

Dr. P. David Pearson
Chair, Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Re: Agenda Item 6C
www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2007-03/2007-03-6C.pdf

Dear Chair Pearson,

As President of the Credential Counselors and Analysts of California (CCAC) I am writing you to suggest that a modest addition be made to the proposed draft Common Standards for the Accreditation system. The members of CCAC share the Commission's goal of ensuring that every teacher credentialed in California has met the program standards and legal requirements mandated for the authorization they are granted.

CCAC has fully supported the transition to the on-line recommendation system for completers of CTC approved programs at universities and our members are currently working to expand the on-line process to other areas of credentialing. The on-line recommendation process has successfully reduced the processing time for credentials and has reduced duplication of efforts for credential candidates, CCAC members and the CTC staff.

CCAC feels that it is vitally important to ensure that in this move to increased efficiency important safeguards protecting California's school children are not lost. Past practice has been that the on-line recommendations made by CCAC members each day were reviewed by Certification Officers at the commission prior to issuance of the credential. These recommendations will soon be reviewed only by a virtual credential officer (VCO). This automatic computer process will only verify that each recommendation was made in a technically correct manner. The VCO is not intended to nor able to verify that all standards and requirements have been met by every candidate for a credential authorization.

On behalf of CCAC I would like to propose that the following language be appended to draft Common Standard 2: Unit and Program Evaluation:

"The education unit implements and monitors a credential recommendation process that ensures that no candidate receives an institutional recommendation for a credential without documentation that all Commission-adopted program standards and all requirements have been met. The unit will also monitor and evaluate on a regular basis the performance of those it authorizes to make credential recommendations."

This addition would make explicit the vital importance of ensuring that the standards the Commission mandates are actually met by every candidate and that under the new on-line system the responsibility for the integrity of each and every recommendation rests directly upon the recommending unit.

Our greatest concerns are adequate training, resources and supervision by a program sponsor, especially when the personnel specifically authorized by the program sponsor to make credential recommendations undergo a transition. The new on-line recommendation system makes these concerns even more critical.

Making the credential recommendation process an integral component of the evaluation of the program sponsors will address the need for oversight in this area. The members of CCAC look forward to working with the CTC staff, the Committee on Accreditation and the Board of Institutional Reviewers to make sure the credentialing system retains the strong reputation for integrity that it currently has.

Sincerely,

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Credential Counselors and Analysts of California (CCAC) is a non-profit professional organization of credentialing personnel from universities, school districts and county offices of education in the State of California. The organization is dedicated to the dissemination of credential information and provides liaison services to agencies involved in the credentialing process for California school personnel. The website and a member list serve is maintained to distribute time sensitive and important information.

CCAC is committed to furthering the knowledge of its members by maintaining an informational network between certification personnel at California institutions of higher education, school districts, county offices of education and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). CCAC represents the link between the CTC and teachers, students and the public in the State of California. Members interact with students at universities who seek certification, with teachers employed at school districts, with those seeking employment and with personnel involved in assigning teachers to appropriate grade levels and subject areas. CCAC, in collaboration with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, sponsors and organizes an annual fall conference in Sacramento and regional workshops in the spring.