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## Information

*Professional Services Committee*

**Adoption of *Standards Common to All* for Subject Matter Programs**

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### Agenda Insert

**Executive Summary:** This agenda item brings back for action two *Standards Common to All* for Subject Matter Programs, as recommended by the Subject Matter Advisory Panel.

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission adopt the two *Standards Common to All*.

**Presenter:** Helen Hawley, Consultant, and Teri Clark, Administrator, 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 and performance of professional educators and for the accreditation of credential programs

August 2010



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## **Adoption of *Standards Common to All* for Subject Matter Programs**

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### **Introduction**

At its August 2010 meeting the Committee on Accreditation (COA) discussed the issue of modifying the *Standards Common to All* for Subject Matter programs (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/coa-agendas/2010-08/2010-08-item-18.pdf>). The COA expressed support for the inclusion of language related to equity and diversity in the *Standards Common to All*.

### **Background**

In discussing the two options presented in the Commission agenda item, the COA concluded that the first option is the better of the two options. The language as presented in the first option of the agenda item is as follows:

The program provides prospective teachers with conceptual knowledge of the subject matter, develops academic literacy and discipline-based fluency, *offers opportunities to consider issues of equity and diversity*, and exposes candidates to a variety of learning experiences.

But the COA articulated a concern that "...offers opportunities to consider issues of equity and diversity..." is fairly weak language and provided "...addresses issues of equity and diversity..." as an alternative. The COA also discussed the term "candidate" and believes that the term "prospective teachers" is a more accurate term since the individuals enrolled in the courses of the approved subject matter programs are not yet teacher candidates. Finally, the COA discussed Standard 5 in the current *Standards Common to All*, Varied Teaching Strategies. The COA was supportive of the inclusion of varied teaching strategies in the revised Standard 1 but felt that the concept of subject specific pedagogy which had been in the elements of the Varied Teaching Strategies standard had been lost. Therefore the final suggestion the COA made is that the variety of learning experiences that the individual is exposed to should be *appropriate for the discipline* for which the prospective teacher is completing coursework.

As a result, the language suggested by COA for Commission consideration and adoption is as follows:

The program provides prospective teachers with conceptual knowledge of the subject matter, develops academic literacy and discipline-based fluency, *addresses issues of equity and diversity*, and exposes *prospective teachers* to a variety of learning experiences *appropriate for the discipline*.

The COA requested staff forward their support for the inclusion of the concepts of equity and diversity and the alternative language to the Commission for the consideration and possible adoption.