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Action

Ad Hoc Committee

Interview, Recommendation, and Appointment of Members for the Committee on Accreditation

Executive Summary: This agenda item provides information about the finalists for open positions on the Committee on Accreditation (COA). After interviewing the finalists from institutions of higher education and the K-12 community, the Ad Hoc Committee will select three individuals to recommend to the Commission for appointment to the COA and may recommend additional individuals as alternates.

Recommended Action: That the Ad Hoc Committee recommend, and the Commission (a) approve the recommendations for three new members of the COA, one from the K-12 community and two from postsecondary education; and (b) that the Commission approve the recommendation of individuals for the COA Alternate List, if appropriate.

Presenter: Cheryl Hickey, Administrator, Professional Services Division

Strategic Plan Goal

II. Program Quality and Accountability

- b) Effectively and efficiently monitor program implementation and outcomes, hold all approved educator preparation programs to high standards and require continuous improvement through the accreditation process.

Interview, Recommendation, and Appointment of Members for the Committee on Accreditation

Introduction

This agenda item provides information about the finalists for the Committee on Accreditation (COA). Six finalists are scheduled to be interviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission. The terms of three incumbents will end on June 30, 2021 and will need to be filled. One of these is a K-12 position and two are postsecondary positions. In addition, the Commission may also appoint any individuals for the Alternate List. In the event of an unanticipated vacancy on the COA, the Executive Director can appoint an individual from the Alternate List to the COA. The terms for the new members of the COA and the alternates will begin July 1, 2021 and extend through June 30, 2025.

Background

Education Code section 44373(a) sets forth that the Commission selects the members of the COA. The COA is composed of 12 members: six must be from postsecondary education and six must be certificated professionals in public schools, school districts, or county offices of education in California. Consistent with the adopted *Accreditation Framework*, the Commission appoints individuals to the COA for a four-year term. Listed below are the current members of the COA and when each of their terms ends.

Members of the Committee on Accreditation

K-12 Professionals

Cynthia Amos

College and Career Coach
Los Angeles Unified School District
Term Ends June 30, 2022

Martin Martinez

Director, School of Education Sacramento
County Office of Education *Term Ends June
30, 2023*

Jomeline Balatayo

English Language Development Teacher
Culver City High School
Term Ends June 30, 2023

Anna W. Moore

Principal
Olivet Elementary Charter School
Term Ends June 30, 2021

Katrine Czajkowski

Program Manager, Teacher Induction
Sweetwater Union High School District
Term Ends June 30, 2022

Gerard Morrison

Teacher
Long Beach Unified School District
Term Ends June 30, 2024

Postsecondary Professionals

Cathy Creasia

Director of Accreditation and Credentialing
 Rossier School of Education
 University of Southern California
Term Ends June 30, 2022

Michael Hillis

Dean, Graduate School of Education
 California Lutheran University
Term Ends June 30, 2023

Robert Frelly

Director of Music Education
 Chapman University
Term Ends June 30, 2021

Lynn Larsen

Professor
 Brandman University
Term ends June 30, 2024

Cheryl Forbes

Director of Teacher Education and Lecturer
 University of California, San Diego
Term Ends June 30, 2024

J. Kevin Taylor

Director, School of Education
 California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Term Ends June 30, 2021

The current alternate list for the COA is included in the chart below:

Current Alternates for the Committee on Accreditation

K-12 Professionals	Postsecondary Professionals
<p>Suzanne Borgese Teacher/Education Specialist Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District <i>Availability for Appointment ends June 2023</i></p>	<p>Sarah MacGregor Assistant Dean, Student Services and Assessment Santa Clara University <i>Availability for Appointment ends June 2021</i></p>
<p>Kelly Skon District Coordinator Educational Services Saddleback Valley Unified School District <i>Availability for Appointment ends June 2022</i></p>	<p>Dr. Lisa Kirtman Dean, College of Education California State University, Fullerton <i>Availability for Appointment ends June 2023</i></p>

Impact of Anticipated Vacancies on the Composition of the Committee on Accreditation

Section 2.B(1) of the *Accreditation Framework* addresses the membership of the COA. It states that selection of members is based on the breadth of their experience, the diversity of their perspectives, and “their distinguished records of accomplishment in education” [Education Code section 44373(a)]. All members serve as members-at-large. No member serves on the COA as a representative of any organization, institution/program sponsor, or constituency. However, the membership of the COA is carefully constructed such that a variety of professional perspectives is ensured in considering accreditation related decisions. The three vacancies impact the composition of the COA. Therefore, the Commission should take into consideration the following provisions of the *Framework* in its selection process for new COA members.

- a. *“The Committee includes members from the public K-12 school system, and from public and private postsecondary institutions.”*

Note: All five K-12 continuing representatives are from the public-school system. There is no requirement in statute or in Commission policy that a K-12 appointment must be a full-time practicing educator, but the Commission may want to consider this factor in making a determination about appointments to the COA.

Of the six current higher education members, two are from public institutions (the California State University system and the University of California system) and four are from private institutions. Of the two members whose terms are completed, one is from a public institution and one from a private institution, leaving the balance of the remaining members as being comprised of three from private institutions and one from the University of California with no representative from the California State University.

- b. *“The elementary and secondary school members include certificated administrators, teachers, and at least one member involved in a professional educator preparation program.”*

The remaining five K-12 membership on the COA includes a college career coach, one induction director, two teachers, and one director of a School of Education at a county office of education. At least six of the nine remaining COA members are involved in a professional educator preparation program in some manner.

- c. *“The postsecondary members include administrators and faculty members, both of whom must be involved in professional educator preparation programs.”*

Many of the remaining postsecondary members serve in multiple roles for their institution. The remaining postsecondary membership on the COA includes one Dean, a Director of Accreditation and Credentialing, and two Directors of

Education. Two of the remaining postsecondary members are faculty members. All four remaining members are involved in professional educator preparation programs and therefore the continuing membership meets these objectives.

- d. *“To the maximum extent possible, Committee membership is balanced according to ethnicity, gender, geographic regions and across credentials awarded by the Commission.”*

Of the nine continuing members, three are male and six are female. Of the three members whose terms are expiring one is female and two are male. Eight of the nine continuing members are from Southern California and one is from Northern California. Of the three COA members whose terms are expiring, one is from Northern California and two are from Southern California.

Responsibilities of the Commission and the Committee on Accreditation in Relation to the Accreditation System

It may be useful to members of the Commission in considering candidates to serve on the COA to review the specific responsibilities of the Commission and COA as outlined in the Education Code.

Responsibilities of the Commission in Relation to the Accreditation System

The Commission’s essential responsibilities related to the accreditation system as defined by the California Education Code and outlined in the Accreditation Framework are listed below:

1. Adopt and Modify the Accreditation Framework
2. Establish and Modify Standards for Educator Preparation
3. Initial Approval of Institutions/Program Sponsors
4. Hear and Resolve Accreditation Appeals
5. Establish a Nominating Panel
6. Appoint the Committee on Accreditation
7. Address Issues and Refer Concerns related to Accreditation
8. Review the Annual Report by the COA
9. Allocate Resources Annually for Accreditation Operations
10. Review and Sponsor Legislation Related to Accreditation

Responsibilities of the Committee on Accreditation in Relation to the Accreditation System

The COA is responsible for implementing the Commission’s accreditation system. Its specific responsibilities as defined by the California Education Code and outlined in the Accreditation Framework are listed below:

1. Comparability of Standards
2. Initial Approval of Programs
3. Continuing Accreditation Decisions
4. Accreditation Procedures
5. Monitor the Accreditation System

- 6. Communication with and reporting to the Commission
- 7. Evaluate Accreditation Policies and Practices

Selection Process for New Members of the COA

Staff began the multi-step selection process for new COA members in November 2020 in accordance with the provisions of the *Accreditation Framework*. Information and the nomination forms were made available on the Commission website. All nomination materials were due February 28, 2021.

Commission staff made efforts to broadly publicize the COA vacancies. Historically it has been difficult to recruit K-12 candidates for the COA due to the time commitment and number of days an individual would be out of the classroom attending COA meetings. Commission staff included information on the vacancies and application process in the PSD E-news for a number of weeks. The Commission received a total of 7 applications for the COA - four from higher education, two from K-12. One applicant served in roles at both an institution of higher education and a K-12 district and therefore was reviewed for both. The nominating panel, whose membership is appointed equally by the Chair of the Commission and the COA, is brought together to review the applications and to put forward for interview with the Commission at least two highly qualified nominees for each vacant seat on the committee.

Members of the Nominating Panel were chosen consistent with the language contained in the Accreditation Framework language that follows (Section 2C.1):

The Nominating Panel is comprised of two educators appointed by the Committee on Accreditation and two educators appointed by the Commission. Each entity will appoint one college or university member and one elementary or secondary school member to the Nominating Panel. The terms of Nominating Panel members are four years. Members of the Panel may not serve more than one term.

The membership of the Nominating Panel is listed in the table below:

Nominating Panel Members Identified by the Commission	Nominating Panel Members Identified by the COA
<p>Haydee Rodriguez California State Board of Education <i>Term ends June 30, 2023</i></p>	<p>Iris Riggs Professor Teacher Education and Foundations California State University, San Bernardino <i>Term Ends June 30, 2023</i></p>
<p>Kathryn Tucciarone Credential Analyst University of California, Santa Barbara <i>Term ends June 30, 2023</i></p>	<p>Cindy Gappa Consultant <i>Term Ends June 30, 2023</i></p>

The criteria for membership in the COA is set forth in the *Accreditation Framework* as follows

(Section 2B.2):

The criteria for membership on the Committee are: evidence of achievement in the education profession; recognized professional or scholarly contributions in the field of education; recognition of excellence by peers; experience with and sensitivity to issues of human diversity; distinguished service in the field of educator preparation; knowledge of issues related to the preparation and licensing of education professionals; length of professional service; and possession of appropriate educational degrees and professional credentials.

The Ad Hoc Committee will interview the finalists and review the incumbent recommendations at this Commission meeting and recommend to the full Commission the selection of one K-12 member and two higher education members in accordance with the following *Accreditation Framework* language (Section 2C.3):

The Commission selects and appoints the members and alternate members of the Committee by selecting from the nominations submitted by the Panel.

The Ad Hoc Committee may also recommend to the full Commission the appointment of any finalists to the alternate pool, to help fill vacancies on the COA should any occur.

Finalists for the Committee on Accreditation

There are three vacancies on the COA for appointment in 2021: one K-12 vacancy and two postsecondary vacancies. The names and affiliation of the finalists are provided in the table below. Two of the applicants are incumbents on the COA and eligible for another term of office. The application materials for each finalist are included in [Appendix A](#).

<i>K-12 Finalists for the COA</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Jason Lea Executive Director Sonoma County Office of Education	John Laughlin Associate Superintendent of Human Resources Sonoma County Office of Education
MaryBeth Murray Special Education Administrator Long Beach Unified School District	Jocelyn Tucker Professor Foundations for Early Childhood Education Headstart and Preschool

<i>Postsecondary Finalists for the COA</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Sonia Lopez Arnak Assistant Professor/Faculty Alliant International University	Christina Luna Assistant Faculty California State University, Fresno
Robert Freilly Director of Music Education Chapman University	Amy Graziano Chair, Conservatory of Music Chapman University

<i>Postsecondary Finalists for the COA</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Kristy Pruitt Dean, College of Education Alliant International University	Tracy Heller Provost Alliant International University
J. Kevin Taylor Director School of Education Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Dean Wendt Dean, College of Science and Mathematics Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee recommend to the full Commission:

- The appointment of two individuals to assume the two vacant postsecondary positions on the COA.
- The appointment of one individual to assume the one vacant K-12 position on the COA.
- The appointment of any individual(s) to the COA Alternate List.

In addition, staff recommends that the Commission review and approve the recommended appointments from the Ad Hoc Committee.