

Discussion of Common Standard 2: Recommendation of Removal of Stipulations for Institutions with Not Met or Met with Concerns

May 2012

Overview of this Report

This item seeks continued clarification from the Committee on Accreditation about the evidence needed to recommend the removal of stipulations that are related to Common Standards 2 in situations where Common Standard 2 was found to be *Not Met* or *Met with Concerns* during the initial accreditation site visit. The COA discussed this topic at its April 2012 meeting and reviewed the draft document and chart. It was determined that after additional input from COA the document required updating. COA also requested samples from Section B of the Biennial Report. The samples will be available in the in-folder for related agenda item 12.

The input from COA has been included and further discussion is requested to continue to refine the document and add clarity. It is anticipated that additional input will lead to the development of a document that will provide additional guidance to site visit teams to use in considering Common Standard 2.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item and staff recommends the COA continue discussion on the topic and provide additional direction to staff. Clarification may be included in communication with the field and with reviewers.

Background

Common Standard 2 continues to be a challenge for institutions. Common Standard reads as follows:

STANDARD 2: Unit and Program Assessment and Evaluation

The education unit implements an assessment and evaluation system for ongoing program and unit evaluation and improvement. The system collects, analyzes, and utilizes data on candidate and program completion performance and unit operations. Assessment in all programs includes ongoing and comprehensive data collection related to candidate qualifications, proficiencies, and competence, as well as program effectiveness, and is used for improvement purposes.

Staff posed the following questions to COA for discussion in April 2012 and would like to request further clarification in May:

- How much progress does the COA need to see to remove stipulations?
- Is it sufficient for the institution to have a well-developed unit assessment system plan?
- Does the institution need to have one year of data collected before the team recommends removal of the stipulation? Does the institution need to have evidence of data driven program or unit modifications before the team recommends removal of the stipulation?
- Are there other actions that should be considered such as follow up reports or data in the next biennial report that impact the direction given by COA on this topic?

The COA discussed these questions at its April 2012 meeting. It was determined that more clarity was needed in the document presented by staff to provide guidance to site visit teams. Staff has updated the chart to help ensure greater consistency in evaluating whether an institution has sufficiently met Common Standard 2. An updated draft of the document and chart will be available at the COA meeting in May 2012 for additional discussion and will include the following recommendations from COA:

- Stronger language added that the requirement is across ALL programs at the unit level
- Clarification regarding the collection of data for Common Standards 7, 8, & 9 at the program level plus the analysis and findings included for review at the unit level
- Guidance for institutions to have the unit head review the findings and identify trends across programs to inform decisions
- Clarification that the complete unit is composed of two parts: Each of programs' data collection, analysis, and utilization of the analysis PLUS the collection and review of the information at the unit level
- Inclusion of language to assist institutions that sponsor only one or two programs
- Clarification regarding how programs that are merged but lead to different credentials should report (EdSp Induction and MS/SS Induction)
- Addition to the definition that unit evaluation is referring only to Commission-approved educator preparation programs
- Inclusion of information regarding how the unit findings should be shared in the Biennial Report and addressed in Section B by the unit head

Next Steps

Based on the COA's discussion and guidance, staff will determine whether to bring the completed document and chart to the next COA meeting to be considered for final approval and usage by the field to serve as guidance for Common Standard 2.