

COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

Kenneth H. Johnson, DO, FAAO, Chair

This report is for the period from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic Accreditation (COCA) met three times: September 6-7, 2014; December 6-7, 2014; and April 18-19, 2015.

COCA Meeting September 6-7, 2014

The COCA met on September 6-7, 2014 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, Ill.) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items included:

- ❑ One focused site visit report was reviewed and accepted from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Bradenton, FL.)
- ❑ One Comprehensive site visit was reviewed and accepted and continuing accreditation was granted to Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (Blacksburg, Va., and Spartanburg, S.C.)
- ❑ One Branch campus site visit report was reviewed and accepted from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (Auburn, AL) granting VCOM-Auburn permission to recruit and admit students and begin operations.
- ❑ Twenty-one (21) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, Ala.); A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ); Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA) Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, Pa.); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, Ind.); Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, Ill.); New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, N.Y.); Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences - College of Osteopathic Medicine 2 reports (Tulsa, Okla.); Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine 2 reports-Dublin and Cleveland (Athens, Ohio); Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.); Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine – Middletown (New York, NY); University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (Biddeford, ME); University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY); William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine – 2 reports (Hattiesburg, Miss.); Western University/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, Calif.); and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, W.Va.)
- ❑ Two requests for substantive change request – mission – were reviewed and approved for Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, Ill.) and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, Calif.) and its branch campus Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic (Henderson, Nev.); one request for substantive change – class size increase – for Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, Mich.) was reviewed and approved; one request for substantive change – additional location - for New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine in Jonesboro, Ark., was reviewed and denied.

- ❑ Representatives of A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ) gave testimony regarding the curriculum to the COCA by request.
- ❑ COM annual reports and mid-cycle reports were reviewed and accepted.

Discussion on policy items for the agenda resulted in the following actions:

- ❑ Representatives of the National Board of Osteopathic Examiners (NBOME) were present to give their annual report to the COCA in executive session
- ❑ New Standard 6.9.1 was approved to become effective July 1, 2015
- ❑ Membership of the COM Appeal Panel was reviewed and approved
- ❑ One (1) candidate for the Evaluators Registry was reviewed; the decision was deferred to August 2015 meeting
- ❑ One (1) candidate for the Consultants on College Accreditation Listing was reviewed and approved
- ❑ The AOA President gave an update on the single accreditation system for GME
- ❑ AOA House Resolution 202 was discussed
- ❑ Reports were given and accepted by the COCA Executive Committee and the Committee on College Accreditation Training

COCA Meeting December 6-7, 2014

The COCA met on December 6-7, 2014 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, Ill.) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items included:

- ❑ One Comprehensive site visit was reviewed and accepted and continuing accreditation was granted to Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, N.J.)
- ❑ One Pre-Accreditation site visit was reviewed and accepted and Pre-Accreditation status was granted to the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (Las Cruces, N.M.)
- ❑ Three (3) requests for substantive change were reviewed: Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine(Kansas City, Mo.)- additional location in Joplin, Mo. - approved; Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, Colo.) - - additional location in Cedar City, Utah - denied; and Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.) - – curriculum - approved.
- ❑ Ten (10) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, Ala.); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.); Lincoln Memorial – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, Tenn.); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis); Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (for its additional location in Cleveland, Ohio); Pacific Northwest University-College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.) – 2 reports; Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (Auburn, Ala. Branch Campus); William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, Miss.)
- ❑ Data reports on complaints, COM attrition rates, GME and COMLEX were presented.

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Six (6) new candidates were considered and appointed to *Consultants on College Accreditation Listing*.
- ❑ One (1) new candidate was considered and appointed to the *Consultants on College Accreditation Listing*.
- ❑ The college of osteopathic medicine (COM) site visit schedule for the 2016 calendar year was reviewed and approved.
- ❑ The COM class survey report for the entering class in the 2014 – 2015 academic year was reviewed and accepted. All COMs were found to be in compliance with the class size procedures.
- ❑ A proposal from the Healthcare Professions Accreditors Collaborative was presented to the COCA and discussed.
- ❑ Issues applicable to additional locations and branch campuses that are located on the sites of non-affiliated institutions of higher education were discussed.
- ❑ The following three reports were presented to the COCA: COCA Executive Committee; Committee on College Accreditation Training; Standards Review Committee and Staff Report.
- ❑ The AOA President addressed the COCA on current issues in medical education

COCA Meeting April 18-19, 2015

The COCA met on April 18-19, 2015 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Two (2) comprehensive site visit reports were reviewed and accepted for: Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, Iowa); and Ohio University - Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, Ohio, and Dublin, Ohio, campuses). Continuing Accreditation status was granted to both COMs.
- ❑ Four (4) provisional site visits reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, Ala.); Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, N.C.); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.); and, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis). Continuing Provisional Accreditation status was granted to all four COMs.
- ❑ One (1) initial provisional site visit report was reviewed from: Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (Las Cruces, NM). Pre-accreditation with permission to recruit, but not admit, students was granted. Beginning July 1, 2015, the COM was granted initial Provisional Accreditation status with permission to admit students and offer instruction for the Fall of 2016.
- ❑ One (1) Pre-Accreditation site visit report was reviewed from: Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Ft. Smith, Ark.). The decision to grant Pre-Accreditation status was deferred.
- ❑ One (1) request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase in Jonesboro, Ark. was reviewed and approved for the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, N.Y.). A site visit is required prior to admitting students and offering instruction at the additional location.

- ❑ One (1) request for substantive change – class size increase for Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was denied.
- ❑ One (1) focused site visit report was reviewed and accepted from: Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Middletown, N.Y. additional location).
- ❑ Five (5) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.); Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine-Cleveland (additional location in Warrensville Heights, Ohio); Pacific Northwest University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.); Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Auburn Campus (Auburn, Ala.); and William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, Miss).
- ❑ Reviewed and accepted Annual Reports and Annual Supplemental Reports from all accredited COMs.
- ❑ Reviewed and accepted eight Mid-Cycle Reports: A.T. Still University – School of Osteopathic Medicine of Arizona (Mesa, Ariz.); Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, Penn.); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, Tenn.); Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, Mich.); Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.); Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, N.Y.); University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (Biddeford, Maine); and University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, Texas).

Discussion on policy items for the agenda resulted in the following actions:

- ❑ Approved posting Standards Review Committee proposed new and revised standards for public commentary.
- ❑ Seven (7) new candidates were considered and approved to the Evaluators Registry.
- ❑ One (1) current member of the Evaluators Registry was approved to serve in the capacity of Team Chair.
- ❑ AOA President addressed the COCA on osteopathic medical education and Canada, GME and research.

COCA - Executive Committee (COCA – EC)

December 2014

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Tuesday, August 26, 2014. An analysis of a feasibility study for Pre-Accreditation of a new COM was conducted and additional information was requested prior to a decision of authorizing a Pre-Accreditation visit.

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on September 17, 2014 and reviewed the COM's response to the request for additional information. The COCA-EC authorized the 1 site visit for Pre-accreditation.

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Thursday, October 2, 2014. The COCA-EC conducted its first analysis of a feasibility study requesting Pre-Accreditation status. The draft staff analysis was approved with amendments. The COCA-EC requested additional information that would need to be evaluated prior to authorizing the initial pre-accreditation site visit.

April 2015

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Monday, December 15, 2014 and reviewed the COM's October 8, 2014 response to the COCA-EC analysis of their feasibility study. The COCA-EC authorized an initial site visit for Pre-accreditation..

In addition, during the same teleconference, the COCA-EC conducted its first analysis of another proposed COM's feasibility study. The draft staff analysis was approved with amendments. The COCA-EC requested additional information that would need to be evaluated prior to authorizing the pre-accreditation site visit.

COCA-EC met via teleconference on Friday, March 6, 2015 and reviewed the COM's January 20, 2015 response to the COCA-EC December 15, 2014 analysis of their feasibility study. The COCA-EC authorized the initial site visit for Pre-accreditation and requested that additional information be submitted for the site visit team to review.

At the April 18-19, 2015 COCA Meeting, the COCA directed the COCA-EC to make decisions on the following topics:

- Response to the AOA House of Delegates - *H-202 - A/2014 Ensuring Adequate Resources to the Future of Osteopathic Medicine;*
- Response to AOA Board of Trustees - *Resolution B-09 – M/2015 “RE-EVALUATION OF COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION'S STANDARD EIGHT: GME OUTCOMES*
- New procedures for Additional Locations, Branch Campuses and New COMs located at another Academic Institution;
- Codification of Procedures

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Friday, May 1, 2015 to discuss the topics directed by the COCA. A response to the AOA House of Delegates and the AOA Board of Trustees was approved. The new procedures for Additional Locations, Branch Campuses and new COMs at another Academic Institution were reviewed and authorized to be posted for public commentary. The Codification of Procedures was not accepted.

Annual Report Review Committee

2014-2015 – the Annual Report Review Committee did not meet during this time period..

COM Accreditation Appeal Panel

There were no appeals heard during this year.

Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)

2014-2015 - The Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT) held its Evaluator Training Workshop on November 14-15, 2014, at the Embassy Suites Hotel Chicago – Downtown/Lakefront in Chicago, Illinois. Themed, “Achieving Efficiency and Consistency in Decision Making,” the program focused on maintaining consistency when reviewing a COM’s compliance with accreditation standards during a site visit. The workshop had a total of 78 registrants, including seven COCA members, six CCAT members, and 1 guest speaker. Six COCA staff members were also in attendance. Topics for sessions included: time management; Requirements, Recommendations and Commendations; GME outcomes and substantive change

COCA Standards Review Committee (SRC)**September 2014 COCA Meeting**

The COCA, in its meeting of September 7-8, 2013 directed that the SRC review selected standard groups / standard domains and report back to the COCA.

On October 22, 2014, the SRC met by teleconference to discuss the items identified by the COCA.

The items identified and prepared for this meeting were the following for review:

1. Standard Eight: GME Outcomes, particularly standard 8.3, in light of upcoming changes in GME.
2. Standards 2.1.2, 4.2.1 and 4.7.1 for clarification in language and intent.
3. Recommendations on H-202 A/2014 (AOA HOD): *Ensuring Adequate Resources to the Future of Osteopathic Medicine*
4. Review standards regarding AOA Board Certification.

December 2014 Report –

The SRC reported the teleconference to the COCA and recommended that the SRC arrange a meeting face to face in order to give more time to these critical topics.

March 7, 2015

On Saturday, March 7, 2015, a meeting of the Standards Review Committee was convened by the SRC Chair at the O’Hare Hilton in Chicago, Ill. Four out of five SRC members attended the meeting along with two COCA staff.

Themes for this meeting to be considered consisted of:

- Standards pertaining to non-discrimination
- Changes that might occur as a result of the ACGME single accreditation system
- Credentials for faculty
- Standard One: Mission, Goals and Objectives (1.1 and 1.5)
- Standard Two: Governance, Administration and Finance (2.1.2, 2.5.2, and 2.8)
- Standard Four: Faculty (4.2.1, 4.3, 4.7)

- Standard Five: Students
- Standard Six: Curriculum (6.3.1, 6.4, 6.6)
- Standard Eight: GME Outcomes (8.3 – new 8.3.1)
- Procedures
 - Applicant and Accreditation Procedures
 - USDE Requirements

The SRC drafted proposed new and revised standards and procedures to be presented at the April 18-19, 2015 COCA meeting.

April 2015 Report –

The SRC presented the proposed new and revised standards and procedures to the COCA at the April 18-19, 2015 meeting. After discussion by the COCA members, the COCA authorized that the proposed new and revised standards and procedures be posted for public commentary. On May 13, 2015, COCA staff posted the proposed new and revised standards and procedures on the COCA website, www.aoacoca.org, and notified stakeholders of this posting. Stakeholders are requested to comment on the proposed new and revised standards and procedures by July 15, 2015. Comments will be reviewed by the COCA at the August 29-30, 2015 COCA meeting.