

**COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION**  
**Kenneth H. Johnson, DO, FAAO, Chair**

This report is for the period from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) met three times: August 29-30, 2015; December 5-6, 2015; and April 16-17, 2016.

**COCA Meeting August 29-30, 2015**

The COCA met on August 29-30, 2015, at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items included:

- ❑ Two (2) pre-accreditation site visit reports were reviewed, accepted, and pre-accreditation status was granted to Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Smith, AR) and University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (San Antonio, TX).
- ❑ One (1) focused site visit report was reviewed and accepted from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Carolinas (Spartanburg, SC).
- ❑ Three (3) Comprehensive site visit reports were reviewed and accepted and continuing accreditation was granted to: Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, CA) and its branch campus Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, NV); University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY); and Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA) and its additional location Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest (Lebanon, OR).
- ❑ Ten (10) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL); Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (Las Cruces, NM); Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, VA); New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY); Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine - Cleveland (Warrensville Heights, OH); Georgia Campus-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Suwanee, GA); Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY); Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (Blacksburg, VA); and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Auburn (Auburn, AL).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase was reviewed and denied for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA) – additional location in Elmira, NY.

Policy discussion items and actions for the agenda included:

- ❑ The AOA President addressed the COCA and provided information about the meeting of the Coalition for Physician Accountability and emphasized the need for innovation and the continuum of medical education.

- ❑ The AACOM President congratulated Alissa Craft, DO, MBA, on becoming the new COCA Secretary and Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, on being appointed to the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation.
- ❑ Eight (8) commentaries on proposed changes to the COCA standards were reviewed and discussed. The COCA voted to schedule a standards forum to further discuss the proposed changes.
- ❑ Representatives of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents expressed their gratitude for approving standards related to issues of bias, gender identity, and sexual orientation. They also emphasized the desire for student representation on the COCA.

### **COCA Meeting December 5-6, 2015**

The COCA met on December 5-6, 2015 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items included:

- ❑ Two (2) focused site visit reports were reviewed and accepted from: Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); and University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (Biddeford, ME).
- ❑ One (1) comprehensive site visit report was reviewed and accepted for New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY) and a focused site visit report was reviewed and accepted for its additional location, NYITCOM at Arkansas State (Jonesboro, AR). Continuing accreditation was granted to New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY) and permission to commence operations, including student recruitment, admissions, and instruction was granted to NYITCOM at Arkansas State (Jonesboro, AR).
- ❑ Seven (7) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL); Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (Las Cruces, NM); Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, VA); Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY); University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY); and Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Auburn (Auburn, AL).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – class size increase – was reviewed and approved for Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ); one request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase – was reviewed and approved for Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO) – additional location in Ivins, UT.

Policy discussion items and actions for the agenda included:

- ❑ Proposed Annual Supplemental Report revisions were submitted to the COCA. After discussion, the COCA determined that the proposed revisions would require further review

and modification under the guidance of the Annual Report Committee.

- ❑ Proposed revisions to the COCA Handbook were submitted to the COCA. The COCA approved the proposed updates.
- ❑ The AOA President addressed the COCA and provided an update on key strategic initiatives of the AOA and the brand awareness campaign.
- ❑ The Class Size Survey Results were reviewed and accepted by the COCA.
- ❑ The 2017 COM Site Visit Schedule was accepted.
- ❑ The AACOM President addressed the COCA and commented about data exchange and data sharing.
- ❑ The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) addressed the COCA. COSGP emphasized the desire for student representation on the COCA and informed the COCA about the mental health awareness task force formed by COSGP.

#### **COCA Meeting April 16-17, 2016**

The COCA met on April 16-17, 2016 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ One (1) focused site visit report was reviewed and accepted from: Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine-Cleveland (Warrensville Heights, OH). The accreditation of its parent was extended to the additional location in Warrensville Heights, OH.
- ❑ Two (2) initial provisional site visit reports were reviewed and accepted from: Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Smith, AR); and University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (San Antonio, TX). Beginning July 1, 2016, both COMs were granted provisional accreditation status with permission to admit students and offer instruction.
- ❑ Four (4) provisional sit visits reports were reviewed, accepted, and continuing provisional accreditation status was granted to: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL); Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, VA); and, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN).
- ❑ One (1) comprehensive site visit report was reviewed and accepted and continuing accreditation status was granted for West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, WV). One (1) comprehensive site visit report was reviewed and accepted for Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, OK).

- ❑ Two progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (Las Cruces, NM); and New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase – was reviewed and denied for Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA) – additional location in Elmira, NY.
- ❑ The 2015-2016 AACOM Annual Questionnaire and 2016 Annual Supplemental Reports were reviewed and accepted.

Policy discussion items and actions for the agenda included:

- ❑ The AOA President addressed the COCA.
- ❑ A COCA Standards Public Forum and Standards Review Committee meeting were held. Proposed revisions to the COCA Standards were approved to become effective July 1, 2016.
- ❑ The Ad Hoc Standards Review Task Force submitted proposed revisions to the non-discrimination standards of the COCA. These were discussed and an interim policy was approved pending public comment and final acceptance of the revised standards.
- ❑ The COCA Secretary reminded commissioners that two (2) Public Members' terms are expiring in July and asked the commissioners consider nominating individuals to fill these two positions.
- ❑ The AACOM President addressed the COCA and expressed support for upcoming standards revisions.
- ❑ The COSGP National Chair gave an update on activities of the mental health awareness task force and presented results of a recent survey conducted among medical students.

### **COCA - Executive Committee (COCA – EC)**

#### August 2015

The COCA met via teleconference on Friday, August 21, 2015. Several Accreditation issues were discussed:

- ❑ The potential conflict of interest associated with members serving on other AOA Bureaus/Councils/Committees and AOA Affiliate Organizations.
- ❑ The increased number of requests from the public for potential new standards or revisions to existing standards.
- ❑ Issues pertinent to the COMs in anticipation of the August 29-30, 2015 meeting.
- ❑ A proposal to have a “crosswalk” created comparing the ACGME standards and competencies for entry into graduate medical education with the current COCA standards for undergraduate medical education.

### December 2015

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Thursday, November 5, 2015. A single issue surrounding the name of an applicant COM was discussed. A consensus was reached that the COCA-EC would request the full commission to review this issue at such time as the commission reviews the feasibility study and site visit report for pre-accreditation status.

### February 2016

The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Friday, February 5, 2016. Two issues were discussed:

- ❑ The COSGP's request for consideration of a student member on the COCA during the December 2015 meeting.
- ❑ A student complaint about a COM violating standards related to admission of students.

### **Annual Report Review Committee**

2015-2016 - The Annual Report Review Committee did not meet during this time period.

### **COM Appeals Panel**

2015-2016 - There were no appeals heard during this time period.

### **Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)**

2015-2016 – The Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT) held its COMs Accreditation Training Workshop on April 6, 2016, at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Downtown Hotel. The workshop had approximately 99 attendees, including seven COCA members, and 14 speakers. Three staff members were also in attendance. Topics for sessions included: Review of Challenging Standards; Accreditation: From Narratives To Metrics; A Comprehensive Visit: Best Practices From Start To Finish; How To Submit A Substantive Change For An Additional Location.

### **COCA Standards Review Committee (SRC)**

#### August 2015 COCA Meeting

At the August 29-30, 2015 COCA meeting, the COCA reviewed and discussed the proposed standard changes and commentary received prior to the meeting. The COCA voted to schedule a standards forum to further discuss the proposed changes.

Proposed Changes to COCA Standards:

#### December 2015 COCA Meeting

At the December 5-6, 2015 meeting, the COCA discussed the standards related to hiring and admission practices with respect to religion in faith-based COMs. The COCA voted to appoint an *ad hoc* Standards Review Committee to study these standards and present their recommendations at the next COCA meeting.

#### April 2016 COCA Meeting

On Saturday, February 13, 2016, a Public Standards Forum was held. All COCA stakeholders were invited to attend and participate. Forty stakeholders attended the Forum. Following the Forum, the Standards Review Committee (SRC) met to review proposed changes to the Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures in the following

Domains:

- ❑ Review proposed revisions to standards 1.1 and 1.5
- ❑ Review proposed revisions to standards 2.1.2, 2.5.2, and 2.8
- ❑ Review proposed revisions to standards 4.2.1, 4.3 and 4.7
- ❑ Review proposed revisions to standards 5.3.2, 5.4.1, 5.4.4, 5.5, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, and 5.6
- ❑ Review **new** proposed standard 6.3.1
- ❑ Review proposed revisions to standards 6.4 and 6.6
- ❑ Review proposed revisions to standard 8.3
- ❑ Review proposed **new** procedures in Chapter II: *Applicant and Accreditation Procedures*
- ❑ Review proposed **new** procedure in Chapter II: *Applicant and Accreditation Procedures*, and in Chapter IV: *USDE Requirements*

In addition, the SRC was making the following recommendations for the COCA to consider:

- ❑ Revision to Standard 3.2

The COCA approved these standards revisions to become effective July 1, 2016.

#### Ad Hoc SRC

The ad hoc SRC met on February 7, March 4, and March 17, 2016 and presented their revision recommendations for standards 2.8, 4.3, and 5.3.2 in relation to respecting religious mission of the faith-based COMs. At the April 16-17, 2016 meeting, the COCA approved the proposed revisions with editorial changes as an interim policy.

#### **Continuing Recognition of the COCA by the U.S. Department of Education**

The COCA staff submitted the current COCA petition for renewal of its recognition as a reliable accrediting agency in January 2016. The COCA petition will be reviewed by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) at its June 2016 meeting. The COCA staff will be present at the NACIQI meeting to answer any questions.

RESOLUTIONS This report is informational in nature; no resolutions are presented.