

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

This report is for the period from June 1, 2016 through June 15, 2017. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) met four times: August 26-28, 2016; December 2-4, 2016; April 6-8, 2017, and June 5, 2017.

**COCA Meeting August 26-28, 2016**

The COCA met on August 26-28, 2016 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items included:

- ❑ Five focused site visit reports were reviewed and accepted: Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO) – additional location in Joplin, MO; Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN); Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, OK); Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA) and Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO) – additional location in Ivins, UT.
- ❑ Two Comprehensive site visit reports were reviewed and accepted and continuing accreditation was granted to: Midwestern University/ Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, IL) and Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine –Auburn (Auburn, AL).
- ❑ Fourteen progress reports were reviewed and accepted: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, AL); Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Smith AR); Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (Las Cruces, NM); Campbell University- Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, NC); Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, VA); Lincoln Memorial University- DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY); Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine - Athens (Athens, OH); Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine - Cleveland (Warrensville Heights, OH); Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, OK); Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA); University of Pikeville –Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY); West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine – (Lewisburg, WV) and University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (San Antonio, TX).
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Three Annual and Mid-Cycle Reports were reviewed and accepted: Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO); Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA);

and, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO).

- ❑ Four follow up actions resulting from the Annual Report or Mid-cycle report were reviewed and accepted: Midwestern University/Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Arizona); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, IN); Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Lauderdale, FL), and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Philadelphia, PA).
- ❑ The COCA reviewed the University Of North Texas Health Science Center/ Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine’s (Fort Worth, TX) request to evaluate whether their mission change constituted a substantive change or not. Additional information was sought by November 1, 2016 for a review at the December COCA meeting.

Policy discussion items and actions for the agenda included:

- ❑ The AOA President addressed the COCA and commented on the results of the COCA’s petition to USDE for renewal of accreditation status as well as the need to address the citations.
- ❑ Six nominees have applied for membership in the registry for on-site evaluation teams. These six individuals were approved for membership in the registry.

Joy P. Henderson, BS	Student Services
Genomary Krigbaum, PsyD, MA	Preclinical Education
Gregg Cary Laud, DO, MS, FAAP	Administration/Finance, Preclinical Education and Clinical Education
Cheryl P. McCormick, PhD, MT (ASCP)	Preclinical Education
Bryan Moody, MEd	Student Services
Sarah H. Parrott, DO	Clinical Education

- ❑ The COCA Standards Review Committee endorsed and the Commission approved revised Standard 2.8 as proposed by AACOM. This standard was to go into effect immediately. Standard 2.8.1 was further revised and posted for public comment.
- ❑ The COCA Secretary gave an update on the findings from the USDE petition and the needed standard changes to come into compliance.
- ❑ Notification of COM Leadership changes was provided.

**COCA Meeting December 2-4, 2016**

The COCA met on December 2-4, 2016 at the O’Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL) under the direction of the Chair. Accreditation action items included:

- ❑ Three focused site visit reports were reviewed and accepted from: New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY) – additional location in Jonesboro, AR; Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH) -





- ❑ The AOA President addressed the COCA concerning issues facing the AOA and COCA.
- ❑ An extensive amount of time was spent in reviewing and approving the recommended standards as proposed by the Standards Task Force. It was decided those standards which required a table to be completed would be pulled from the agenda until the table had been developed. When completed, the standards and the accompanied tables would be open for public comment for 30 days and be presented for a COCA vote on June 5, 2017 via a video conference. The COCA meeting would facilitate discussion and voting amongst Commissioners while the public would be able to listen but not contribute during the meeting.

During the same meeting, standards for New and Developing COMs and Substantive Changes would be brought forward for discussion and a vote. These were also available for public comment during a 30 day period in the month of May.

- ❑ The AACOM President addressed the COCA and expressed support for upcoming standards revisions.
- ❑ Approval of the applicants for the Evaluator Registry was deferred until the August 2017 COCA meeting due to the extremely full agenda.

### **COCA Meeting June 5, 2017**

The COCA met by conference call on June 5, 2017 to review and approve the final set of proposed standards changes by the Standards Task Force.

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

#### October 2016

The COCA Executive Committee met via teleconference on Monday, October 3, 2016. Several issues were discussed which included:

- ❑ Accreditation issues
- ❑ Students concerns
- ❑ Hiring of consultants to assist with the revision of the new Standards document. The field has been narrowed to two agencies and the Executive Committee agreed to let the COCA staff make the selection. The consultants will begin work on October 10, 2016.
- ❑ Scheduling a Standards Forum for Friday, December 2, 2016 which will be held in the Chicago area.

#### November 2016

The meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

#### January 2017

The meeting scheduled for January 2, 2017 was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum and rescheduled for January 25, 2017.

- ❑ The COCA-EC met via teleconference on Wednesday, January 25, 2017. The situation at William Carey University and the destruction resulting from a direct-hit tornado was discussed.

#### February 2017

The COCA-EC met on Monday, February 6, 2017 via teleconference. The William Carey University's short-term as well as long-term plans were discussed.

- ❑ The feasibility study from a new COM was reviewed by the committee.

The COCA-EC met a second time this month on February 13, 2017 to review the progress being made by William Carey University and its current level of functioning.

- ❑ Several accreditation issues were discussed with decisions reached.
- ❑ An update on the progress being made by the Standards Task Force was given by Dr. Knebl.

#### May 2017

The COCA-EC met on Monday, May 16, 2017 to discuss the following issues:

- ❑ Accreditation issues;
- ❑ The feasibility study from a new COM;
- ❑ Follow-up information regarding the Class Size Survey; and
- ❑ Student concerns.

#### June 2017

The COCA-EC met on Monday, June 5, 2017 to discuss the following issues:

- ❑ Logistics for the on-line COCA meeting to be held the same evening;
- ❑ Accreditation issues;
- ❑ Student concerns;
- ❑ Class Size data update;
- ❑ Update on the new Standards effective July 1, 2017; and
- ❑ Nominations for COCA commissioners for the 2017-18 academic year.

#### **Annual Report Review Committee**

2016-2017 - The Annual Report Review Committee did not meet during this time period.

#### **COM Appeals Panel**

2016-17- One appeal was heard during the first week of May.

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

The CCAT Meeting was held on April 21 and 22, 2017 at the Hilton Hotel in Rosemont, IL. The meeting addressed the revised Standards for Accreditation which had been approved at the April COCA meeting. Also, general information concerning accreditation was addressed as well as proposed changes in the logistics of a site visit. Use of the new COCA On-line system was introduced.

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

#### **Ad hoc Standards Task Force**

The ad hoc Standards Task Force met on January 18 and 19; January 31; February 7; February 21; February 28; March 14; March 21; March 29; April 14; May 9; June 1; and June 13, 2017 for a complete review and revision of the Standards. A public comment period addressing the new Standards was held for 30 days culminating with a Standards Forum on March 20, 2017 at the Westin Hotel in Rosemont with approximately 100 individuals attending. Comments and suggestions were received with accompanying changes made by the Standards Task Force. At the April 6-8, 2017 meeting, the COCA approved the proposed revisions, with the exception of those standards that needed additional tables. The tables were developed, sent for public comment and then approved at a COCA video meeting on June 5, 2017.

New Standards for New and Developing COMs plus Substantive Change were developed by the Standards Task Force and approved by the COCA at the video conference meeting on June 5, 2017. All new standards will be effective on July 1, 2017 with a phase in period across the fall of 2017.

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

The COCA applied to the U.S. Department of Education for renewal of its recognition as a reliable accrediting agency in January 2016 and received feedback from its application in October 2016. Several monitoring issues will need to be addressed in a follow-up progress report due in November 2017. Multiple meetings have been held with the Staff liaison from the U.S. Department of Education in preparation for writing the follow-up report.

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

The COCA expresses its deepest appreciation to the Standards Task force including Dr. Janice Knebl (chair), Dr. Thomas Yorio (vice chair), Dr. Lori Kemper, Dr. Evelyn Schwalenberg, Dr. Harriet Arnone, Dr. Ronnie Martin, Dr. Karen Johnson, and Dr. Louisa Sethi. Special recognition should be extended to Dr. Alissa Craft for leadership during the development and approval process of these standards.