

**Date: June 16, 2017**

**To: Chancellors, Superintendents, Presidents, Accreditation Liaison Officers, and other interested parties**

**From: Dr. Stephanie Droker, Vice President, ACCJC**

**Subject: Policy on the Review of Accreditation Standards – Invitation to Field for Comment**

#### Background

Federal regulations require accrediting agencies to maintain a systematic review demonstrating that its standards are adequate to evaluate the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions it accredits and relevant to the educational needs of students (34 CFR 602.21). ACCJC's operational policy on Review of Accreditation Standards outlines the systematic process by which ACCJC conducts the comprehensive review of its standards, including the methods used to encourage wide-participation and input from its member institutions and their constituency groups. The policy, as currently written and adopted, only provides for the comprehensive review of all standards and does not provide for any process or practice in which an individual standard or group of standards could be reviewed and revised in between the comprehensive review cycle.

#### Policy Revision

As the 2014 standards have been implemented and applied to the evaluation of member institutions, the Commission has received comments and concerns from the field regarding the language and interpretation of specific standards. Recognizing there may be a need to review and revise individual standards in between the comprehensive review cycle, the Commission's policy committee has proposed a revision to the policy on Review of Accreditation Standards to provide a mechanism for individual standard review in between the comprehensive review cycle and has revised the policy language for clarity and accuracy. At its June 2017 meeting, the Commission approved the revised policy for first-read.

#### Comments from the Field

Following its Bylaws, **the ACCJC invites comments from the field on this policy revision. Written comments may be emailed to [accjc@accjc.org](mailto:accjc@accjc.org).** Understanding that faculty and students are off campus during the summer, the period for soliciting comments from the field will be extended, and **all comments must be received by September 15, 2017.** All comments will be reviewed by the ACCJC Policy Committee. The committee will incorporate any changes into the policy, which will then be presented to the Commission for a second-reading and action at the January 2018 meeting. Additionally, the policy will be on the Commission's open meeting agenda, and anyone interested may comment on the policy and its proposed changes directly to the Commission during the public comment session and prior to the Commission taking action.

The policy is posted on the ACCJC website at: <http://accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/First-Reading-Review-of-Accreditation-Standards-Review-April-2017.pdf>