

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #1: Due Process

Tentative agreement reached 04-26-07

§602.3 What definitions apply to this part?

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Adverse accrediting decision means a decision to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate accreditation or preaccreditation, or any comparable accrediting decision an agency may make against an institution or program, that will become final unless appealed.

§602.25 Due process.

The agency must demonstrate that the procedures it uses throughout the accrediting process satisfy due process. The agency meets this requirement if the agency does the following:

(a) The agency uses procedures that afford an institution or program a reasonable period of time to comply with the agency's requests for information and documents.

(b) In arriving at an adverse accrediting decision, the agency applies procedures that—

(1) Require written notice of the deficiencies the institution or program is believed to have under the agency's standards and policies;

(2) Provide a reasonable period of time for the institution or program to prepare its response to the deficiencies identified;

(3) Permit the institution or program to present information—written and, if deemed necessary by the agency, oral—to the agency in its response; and

(4) Ensure that the agency's decision makers are objective and free of conflicts of interest.

(c) The agency notifies the institution or program in writing of any adverse accrediting decision or an action to

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

place the institution or program on probation or show cause. The notice describes the basis for the decision or action.

(d) The agency permits the institution or program the opportunity to appeal orally or in writing an adverse accrediting decision. The appeal procedures include--

(1) The right to be represented by counsel during that appeal;

(2) The right to have individuals who are objective and free of conflicts of interest hear and make the decision or the recommended decision on the appeal; and

(3) If the agency allows institutions or programs the right to appeal other types of actions, the agency has the discretion to limit the appeal to a written appeal.

(e) The agency notifies the institution or program in writing of the result of its appeal and the basis for that result.

§602.20 Enforcement of standards.

(a) If the agency's review of an institution or program under any standard indicates that the institution or program is not in compliance with that standard, the agency must--

(1) Immediately initiate an action to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate accreditation or preaccreditation, or take comparable action against, the institution or program; or

(2) * * *

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(b) If the institution or program does not bring itself into compliance within the specified period, the agency must take an immediate action to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate accreditation or preaccreditation, or take comparable action against the institution or program unless the agency, for good cause, extends the period for achieving compliance.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

§602.28 Regard for decisions of States and other
accrediting agencies.

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(d) If the agency learns that an institution it accredits or preaccredits, or an institution that offers a program it accredits or preaccredits, is the subject of an action to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate accreditation or preaccreditation, or take comparable action against the institution or program by another recognized accrediting agency or has been placed on probation or an equivalent status by another recognized agency, the agency must promptly review its accreditation or preaccreditation of the institution or program to determine if it should also take such action or place the institution or program on probation or show cause.

(e) The agency must, upon request, share with other appropriate recognized accrediting agencies and recognized State approval agencies information about the accreditation or preaccreditation status of an institution or program and any action it has taken to deny, withdraw, suspend, revoke, or terminate accreditation or preaccreditation, or take comparable action against an accredited or preaccredited institution or program.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #2: Substantive Change

Tentative agreement reached 04-26-07

§602.22 Substantive change.

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(a)(2) The agency's definition of a substantive change includes at least the following types of change:

(i) Any change in the established mission or objectives of the institution.

(ii) Any change in the legal status, form of control, or ownership of the institution.

(iii) The addition of courses or programs that represent a significant departure from the scope of existing offerings of educational programs, or method of delivery, from those that were offered when the agency last evaluated the institution.

(iv) The addition of courses or programs at a degree or credential level different from that which is included in the institution's current accreditation or preaccreditation.

(v) A change from clock hours to credit hours.

(vi) A substantial increase in the number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of a program.

(vii) If the agency's accreditation of an institution enables the institution to seek eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs, the entering into a contract under which an institution or organization not certified to participate in those programs offers more than 25 percent of one or more of the accredited institution's educational programs.

(viii) If the agency's accreditation of an institution enables the institution to seek eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs, the establishment of an additional location geographically apart from the main

Proposed Regulatory Language Committee IV -- Accreditation

campus at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program. An addition of such a location must be approved by the agency in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section unless the accrediting agency determines, and issues a written determination stating, that the institution has successfully completed at least one cycle of accreditation of maximum length offered by the agency and one renewal or has been accredited for at least ten years, has at least three additional locations that the agency has approved, and has met criteria established by the agency indicating sufficient capacity to add additional locations without individual prior approvals, including, at a minimum, satisfactory evidence of a system to ensure quality across a distributed enterprise that includes--

- (A) Clearly identified academic control;
- (B) Regular evaluation of the locations;
- (C) Adequate faculty, facilities, resources, and academic and student support systems;
- (D) Financial stability; and
- (E) Long-range planning for expansion.

The agency's procedures must require timely reporting to the agency of every additional location established under this approval. Each agency determination or redetermination to preapprove the addition of multiple locations under this paragraph must be of limited duration, and may not exceed five years. The agency may no longer preapprove an institution's addition of multiple locations under this paragraph after the institution undergoes a change of ownership resulting in a change in control as defined in 34 C.F.R. §600.31 until the institution demonstrates that it meets the conditions for the agency to preapprove multiple locations set forth in this paragraph.

(3) The agency's substantive change policy must define when the changes made or proposed are or would be sufficiently extensive to require the agency to do a new comprehensive evaluation of the institution.

(b) The agency may determine the procedures it uses to grant prior approval of the substantive change. However, the procedures must specify an effective date, not

Proposed Regulatory Language Committee IV -- Accreditation

retroactive, on which the change is included in the program's or institution's accreditation. An agency may designate the date of a change of ownership as the effective date of its approval of that substantive change if the accreditation decision is made within 30 days of the change of ownership. Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the agency's approval policies for additional locations may, but need not, require a visit by the agency.

(c) If the agency's accreditation of an institution enables the institution to seek eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs, the agency's procedures for the approval of an additional location described in paragraph (a)(2)(viii) of this section must determine if the institution has the fiscal and administrative capacity to operate the additional location. In addition, the agency's procedures must include—

(1) A visit, within six months, to each additional location the institution establishes, if the institution—

(i) Has a total of three or fewer additional locations;

(ii) Has not demonstrated, to the agency's satisfaction, that it has a proven record of effective educational oversight of additional locations; or

(iii) Has been placed on warning, probation or show cause by the agency or is subject to some limitation by the agency on its accreditation or preaccreditation status;

(2) An effective mechanism for conducting, at reasonable intervals throughout the accreditation cycle, visits to a representative sample of additional locations of institutions that operate more than three additional locations; and

(3) An effective mechanism, which may, at the agency's discretion, include visits to additional locations, for ensuring that accredited and preaccredited institutions that experience rapid growth in the number of additional locations maintain educational quality.

(d) The purpose of the visits described in paragraph (c) of this section is to verify that the additional location has the personnel, facilities, and resources it claimed to have

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

in its application to the agency for approval of the additional location.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #3: Monitoring of institutions

Tentative agreement: Not yet fully discussed

§602.19 Monitoring and reevaluation of accredited
institutions and programs.

(a) The agency must reevaluate, at regularly established intervals, the institutions or programs it has accredited or preaccredited.

(b) The agency must monitor institutions or programs throughout their accreditation or preaccreditation period, ~~to ensure that they remain in compliance with the agency's standards. This includes~~ **by requiring periodic reports and** conducting special evaluations or site visits, as necessary. ~~., to ensure that the institution or program--~~

~~-----~~ **(1) Resolves identified problems related to compliance with agency standards; and**

~~-----~~ **(2) Implements concrete and reasonable steps to improve the institution's or program's performance in relation to the institution's educational mission.**

(c) **To signal the need for agency review of the status of the institution or program, the agency must regularly collect and analyze information on key performance indicators. such as** These may include, but are not limited to, **enrollments, financial audits or other financial information, retention rates, and completion rates, job placement rates, and State license examination pass rates, and other** measures of student achievement identified by the agency. ~~to signal the need for intervention~~

~~(d) The agency must provide a rationale acceptable to the Secretary, which may include consideration of the length of educational offerings, for the intervals between evaluations and institutional reporting that takes into consideration the length of the accreditation period.~~

(d) The agency must demonstrate it has, and effectively applies, a set of monitoring and reevaluation approaches that provide the agency with reasonable certainty of identifying potential problems with an institution's or program's continued compliance with agency

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

standards and that take into account institutional or program strengths and stability.

The following non-redlined version includes the one suggested change made at the third session

§602.19 Monitoring and reevaluation of accredited institutions and programs.

(a) The agency must reevaluate, at regularly established intervals, the institutions or programs it has accredited or preaccredited.

(b) The agency must monitor institutions or programs throughout their accreditation or preaccreditation period, by requiring periodic reports and conducting special evaluations or site visits, as necessary.

(c) To signal the need for agency review of the status of the institution or program, the agency must regularly collect and analyze information on key performance indicators. These may include, but are not limited to, enrollments, financial audits or other financial information, retention rates, completion rates, job placement rates, and State license examination pass rates, and measures of student achievement identified by the agency.

(d) The agency must demonstrate it has, and effectively applies, a set of monitoring and reevaluation approaches that ~~provide the agency with reasonable certainty of identifying~~ **enables the agency to identify** potential problems with an institution's or program's continued compliance with agency standards and that take into account institutional or program strengths and stability.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

- Issue #6: Quantitative standards for programs leading to gainful employment**
- Issue #7: Institutional success with respect to student achievement**

No tentative agreement as of 4-26-07

§602.16 Accreditation and preaccreditation standards.

(a) The agency must demonstrate that it has standards for accreditation and, if offered, preaccreditation that are sufficiently rigorous to ensure that the agency is a reliable authority regarding the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions or programs it accredits. The agency meets this requirement if—

(1) The agency's accreditation standards effectively address the quality of the institution or program in the following areas:

(i) Success with respect to student achievement in relation to the institution's mission, which may include different standards for different types of institutions or programs. Standards satisfying this criterion must include expected levels of performance that are either established by the agency, or established by the institution or program under subparagraphs (A) and (B). In addition—

(A) If the agency does not establish the expected levels of performance with respect to student achievement, the institution or program, at the institution or program level respectively, must—

(1) Specify its goals for student achievement;

(2) Establish the expected level of performance; and

(3) Demonstrate its performance against those expected levels of performance using quantitative and qualitative evidence, including, as appropriate, external indicators.

(B) For prebaccalaureate vocational programs and degree programs leading to initial professional licensure or certification, expected levels of performance must include completion rates, job placement rates, and, as

Proposed Regulatory Language Committee IV -- Accreditation

applicable, pass rates on State licensing examinations or other appropriate measures of occupational competency.

(C) Every agency must demonstrate that its standards and processes allow it to evaluate whether the evidence provided by the institution or program shows that the institution's or program's performance is acceptable. In any instances when the institution or program establishes the expected levels of performance, the agency must also demonstrate that its standards and processes allow it to evaluate the institution's or program's expected levels of performance. The agency will take into account the institution's or program's use of other externally-set performance measures or criteria.

(D) Institutional accreditors will consider information provided by the institution about program level performance either in the aggregate, or at both the program level and in the aggregate, in making the institutional accreditation decision.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

**Issue #8: Consideration of mission in application of
standards**

Tentative agreement reached 4-25-07

§602.17 Application of standards in reaching an
accrediting decision.

The agency must have effective mechanisms for evaluating an institution's or program's compliance with the agency's standards before reaching a decision to accredit or preaccredit the institution or program. The agency meets this requirement if the agency demonstrates that it-

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(g) Applies its accreditation standards in a manner that does not undermine the stated religious mission of any institution of higher education.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

**Issue #9: Transfer of credit and acceptance of
 credentials**

No tentative agreement as of 4-25-07

§602.16 Accreditation and preaccreditation standards.

(a) The agency must demonstrate that it has standards for accreditation and, if offered, preaccreditation, that are sufficiently rigorous to ensure that the agency is a reliable authority regarding the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions or programs it accredits. The agency meets this requirement if-

(1) The agency's accreditation standards effectively address the quality of the institution or program in the following areas:

* * *

(vii) Recruiting and admissions practices, academic calendars, catalogs, publications, grading, and advertising.

(A) Agency standards on admissions must provide that decisions about transfer of credit and acceptance of credentials are not made solely on the source of accreditation of a sending institution or program, as long as the accreditation in question is from a recognized accrediting agency and within that agency's scope, and must also provide that the institutions or programs disclose to prospective students their policies concerning transfer of credit and acceptance of credentials.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #10: Direct assessment programs

Tentative agreement reached on 4-25-07

§602.3 What definitions apply to this part?

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Direct assessment program means an instructional program that, in lieu of credit hours or clock hours as a measure of student learning, utilizes direct assessment of student learning, or recognizes the direct assessment of student learning by others.

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Scope of recognition or *scope* means the range of accrediting activities for which the Secretary recognizes an agency. The Secretary may place a limitation on the scope of an agency's recognition for Title IV, HEA purposes. Except with respect to programs approved by the Secretary under 34 C.F.R. §668.10, scope does not include accreditation or preaccreditation granted to or comprising any program offered in whole or in part as a direct assessment program. The Secretary's designation of scope defines the recognition granted according to—

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #12: Recognition procedures
Issue #13: Decision-making authority

Tentative agreement: Not yet fully discussed

The bolded text reflects changes made on 4-26-07. The highlighted text is new.

Subpart A - General

§602.3 What definitions apply to this part?

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Recognition means an unappealed determination by the senior Department official under 34 C.F.R. §602.34, or a determination by the Secretary on appeal under 34 C.F.R. §602.36, that an accrediting agency complies with the criteria for recognition listed in subpart B of this part and that the agency is effective in its performance with respect to those criteria. Recognition is conditional and may be revoked at any time prior to its expiration upon a determination made in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §602.34 or 34 C.F.R. §602.36, as applicable, that the agency no longer complies with the subpart B criteria or that it has become ineffective in its performance with respect to those criteria.

Subpart C - The Recognition Process

§602.31 How does Department staff review an agency's application?

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(b) Department staff analyzes the agency's application to determine whether the agency satisfies the criteria for recognition, taking into account all available relevant information concerning the compliance of the agency with those criteria and any deficiencies in the agency's performance with respect to the criteria. The analysis includes—

(1) Site visits, on an announced or unannounced basis, to the agency or to some of the institutions or programs it accredits or preaccredits.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

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§602.32 What procedures will the Department staff follow in investigating recognized agencies?

(a) Department staff may conduct an investigation into the compliance of a recognized agency with the criteria for recognition at any time, on its own initiative, at the request of the Advisory Committee, **or based on any other relevant information received, including any third party complaint that appears credible and raises issues relevant to recognition.** The investigation may include, but need not be limited to, any of the activities described in 34 C.F.R. §602.31(b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(3), and (c).

(b) If, in the course of the investigation, Department staff **concludes that one or more material deficiencies may exist in the agency's** compliance with the criteria for recognition, it—

(1) **Must notify the agency in writing of the criteria and issues of concern and discuss the matter with agency representatives;**

(2) **If not satisfied with the agency's explanation, establishes a time period, not to exceed three months from the date of the notice provided under paragraph (1), during which the agency must file a written report (including documentation) demonstrating compliance with the criteria cited by the staff and resolving all issues the staff has raised;**

(3) **Reviews any report submitted by an agency under paragraph (2) and, if still dissatisfied—**

(i) **Establishes a schedule for the review of the issues by the Advisory Committee;**

(ii) **Publishes a notice in the Federal Register inviting the public to comments on the agency's compliance with the criteria in question and establishing a deadline for receipt of public comment;**

(iii) **Provides State licensing or authorizing agencies, all currently recognized accrediting agencies, and other appropriate organizations with copies of the Federal Register notice;**

Proposed Regulatory Language Committee IV -- Accreditation

(iv) Prepares a written analysis of the agency's compliance with the criteria identified that reflects the results of the investigation, and that includes a recommendation regarding what action to take with respect to recognition. Possible recommendations include, but are not limited to, limiting, suspending, or terminating recognition;

(v) Sends its analysis and all supporting documentation to the agency for response and, if necessary, prepares an addendum, all in accordance with §602.31(e)(2), (e)(3), (f), and (g);

(vi) Before the Advisory Committee meeting **hearing**, provides the Advisory Committee with any materials generated or obtained under this section, along with any other information Department staff relied on in developing its analysis; and

(vii) At least 30 days before the Advisory Committee meeting **meets to conduct hearings for review of agencies**, publishes a notice of the meeting in the Federal Register inviting interested parties, including those who submitted third-party comments concerning the agency's compliance with the criteria for recognition, to make oral presentations before the Advisory Committee.

~~§602.33 What is the role of the Advisory Committee in the review of an agency's application? **How are Advisory Committee hearings for review of agencies conducted?**~~

(a) The Advisory Committee considers an agency's application for recognition **and staff analysis prepared under §602.31**, or a staff analysis prepared under §602.32 together with the associated agency report **and response**, at **in** a public meeting **hearing** and invites Department staff, the agency, and other interested parties to make oral presentations at **during** the meeting **hearing**. A transcript is made of each **all** Advisory Committee meeting **hearings**.

(b) When it concludes its review, the Advisory Committee makes such recommendations to the senior Department official as the Committee deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, a recommendation to approve,

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

deny, limit, suspend, or terminate recognition, or to defer a decision on the agency's application for recognition.

(1)(i) The Advisory Committee recommends approval of recognition if the agency complies with the criteria for recognition listed in subpart B of this part and if the agency is effective in its performance with respect to those criteria.

(ii) If the Advisory Committee recommends approval, the Advisory Committee also recommends a recognition period and a scope of recognition.

(iii) If the recommended scope or period of recognition is less than that requested by the agency, the Advisory Committee explains its reasons for recommending the lesser scope or recognition period.

(2)(i) If **the Advisory Committee determines that the** agency fails to comply with the criteria for recognition cited in the Department staff analysis, or if **it determines that** the agency is not effective in its performance with respect to those criteria, the Advisory Committee recommends denial, limitation, suspension, or termination of recognition, unless the Advisory Committee concludes that a deferral by the senior Department official under paragraph (b)(3) of this section is warranted.

(ii) If the Advisory Committee recommends denial, limitation, suspension, or termination of recognition, the Advisory Committee specifies the reasons for its recommendation, including all criteria the agency fails to meet and all areas in which the agency fails to perform effectively.

(iii) If the Advisory Committee identifies areas of noncompliance with the criteria for recognition (or in the effectiveness of agency performance with respect to those criteria) that are not identified in the Department staff analysis before the Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee postpones further consideration of the agency ~~until its next meeting~~, and Department staff conducts an investigation under 34 C.F.R. §602.32 **of the new issues raised by the Advisory Committee.**

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Proposed Regulatory Language Committee IV -- Accreditation

(c) At the conclusion of its ~~meeting~~ **hearings for review of agencies**, the Advisory Committee forwards its recommendations to the senior Department official, except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(iii) of this section.

§602.34 What does the senior Department official consider when making a recognition decision?

The senior Department official makes a decision regarding recognition of an agency based on the entire record made under 34 C.F.R. §§602.31 or 602.32, including the following:

- (a) The Advisory Committee's recommendation.
- (b) The Department staff analysis of the agency.
- (c) Any addendum to the Department staff analysis.
- (d) Any agency response to the Department staff analysis and third-party comments.
- (e) The agency's application submitted under 34 C.F.R. §602.31, or its report submitted under 34 C.F.R. §602.32, and supporting documentation.
- (f) All written third-party comments forwarded by Department staff to the Advisory Committee for consideration ~~at the meeting~~ **during the Advisory Committee hearing**.
- (g) All oral presentations **made during** ~~at~~ the Advisory Committee ~~meeting~~ **hearing**.

§602.35 What information does the senior Department official's recognition decision include?

- (a) The senior Department official notifies the agency in writing of the senior Department official's decision regarding the agency's recognition.
- (b) The decision the senior Department official may make includes, but is not limited to, approving, denying, limiting, suspending, or terminating recognition, or deferring a decision on the agency's recognition.

Proposed Regulatory Language Committee IV -- Accreditation

(1)(i) The senior Department official approves recognition if the agency complies with the criteria for recognition listed in subpart B of this part and if the agency is effective in its performance with respect to those criteria.

(ii) If the senior Department official approves recognition, the recognition decision defines the scope of recognition and the recognition period.

(iii) If the scope or period of recognition is less than that requested by the agency, the senior Department official explains the reasons for approving a lesser scope or recognition period.

(2)(i) If the agency fails to comply with the criteria for recognition in subpart B of this part, or if the agency is not effective in its performance with respect to those criteria, the senior Department official denies, limits, suspends, or terminates recognition, unless the senior Department official concludes that a deferral under paragraph (b)(3) of this section is warranted.

(ii) If the senior Department official denies, limits, suspends, or terminates recognition, the senior Department official specifies the reasons for this decision, including all criteria the agency fails to meet and all areas in which the agency fails to perform effectively with respect to the criteria.

(3)(i) The senior Department official may defer a decision on recognition if the senior Department official concludes that the agency's deficiencies do not warrant immediate denial, limitation, suspension, or termination of recognition and if the senior Department official concludes that the agency will demonstrate or achieve compliance with the criteria for recognition and effective performance with respect to those criteria before the expiration of the deferral period.

(ii) In the deferral decision, the senior Department official states the bases for the senior Department official's conclusions, specifies any criteria for recognition the agency fails to meet, and identifies any areas in which the agency fails to perform effectively with respect to the criteria.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

(iii) The senior Department official also establishes a deferral period, which begins on the date of the senior Department official's decision.

(iv) The deferral period may not exceed 12 months, either as a single deferral period or in combination with any expiring deferral period in which similar deficiencies in compliance or performance were cited by the senior Department official, except that the senior Department official may grant an extension of an expiring deferral period at the request of the agency for good cause shown.

(c) No recognition period may exceed five years. Prior to the expiration of a period of recognition, an agency desiring renewal must apply under 34 C.F.R. §602.31.

(d) If the senior Department official does not reach a final decision to approve, deny, limit, suspend, or terminate an agency's recognition before the expiration of its recognition period, the senior Department official automatically extends the recognition period until the final decision is reached.

(e) Unless appealed in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §602.36, the senior Department official's decision is the final decision of the Secretary.

§602.36 How may an agency appeal the senior Department official's decision?

(a) The agency may appeal the senior Department official's decision to the Secretary. If an agency wishes to appeal, the agency must--

(1) Notify the Secretary and the senior Department official in writing of its intent to appeal the decision no later than 10 days after receipt of the decision;

(2) Submit its appeal to the Secretary in writing no later than 30 days after receipt of the decision; and

(3) Provide the senior Department official with a copy of the appeal at the same time it submits the appeal to the Secretary.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

(b) The senior Department official may file a written response to the appeal. To do so, the senior Department official must—

(1) Submit a response to the Secretary no later than 30 days after receipt of a copy of the appeal; and

(2) Provide the agency with a copy of the senior Department official's response at the same time it is submitted to the Secretary.

(c) Neither the agency nor the senior Department official may include any new evidence in its submission, i.e., evidence it did not previously submit to the Advisory Committee.

(d) On appeal, the Secretary makes a recognition decision in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §602.34, rendering a final decision after taking into account the senior Department official's decision and the parties' written submissions on appeal, as well as the entire record before the Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee's opinion. The Secretary notifies the agency in writing of the Secretary's decision regarding the agency's recognition.

§602.37 May an agency appeal the Secretary's final decision to deny, limit, suspend, or terminate its recognition?

An agency may appeal the Secretary's decision under this part in the Federal courts as a final decision in accordance with applicable Federal law.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #14: Agency materials—record keeping and confidentiality

Tentative agreement reached on 4-26-07

§602.15 Administrative and fiscal responsibilities.

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(b) The agency maintains complete and accurate records of—

(1) Its last full accreditation or preaccreditation reviews of each institution or program, including on-site evaluation team reports, the institution's or program's responses to on-site reports, periodic review reports, any reports of special reviews conducted by the agency between regular reviews, substantive change reviews, and a copy of the institution's or program's most recent self-study; and

(2) All decisions made throughout an institution's or program's affiliation with the agency regarding the accreditation and preaccreditation of the institution or program and substantive changes, including all correspondence that is significantly related to those decisions.

§602.30 How does an agency apply for recognition?

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(b) * * *

(c) The Secretary's ability to honor agency requests to withhold agency materials reviewed under this Part from public disclosure is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552; the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §1905; the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. §552a, and other applicable law.

§602.27 Other information an agency must provide the Department

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(f) If the Secretary requests, information that may bear upon an accredited or preaccredited institution's compliance with its Title IV, HEA program responsibilities, including the eligibility of the institution or program to

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

participate in Title IV, HEA programs.

**Proposed Regulatory Language
Committee IV -- Accreditation**

Issue #15: Providing information to the public

Tentative agreement: Not yet fully discussed

§602.16 Accreditation and preaccreditation standards.

(a) The agency must demonstrate that it has standards for accreditation, and, if offered, preaccreditation that are sufficiently rigorous to ensure that the agency is a reliable authority regarding the quality of the education or training provided by the institutions or programs it accredits. The agency meets this requirement if-

(1) The agency's accreditation standards effectively address the quality of the institution or program in the following areas:

* * *

(vii) Recruiting and admissions practices, academic calendars, catalogs, publications, grading and advertising.

* * *

(B) The agency must require each program or institution it accredits to publish information related to the program's or institution's effectiveness in fulfilling program objectives or institutional mission, especially indicators of the program's or institution's performance regarding student achievement, including data specified in **§602.16(a)(1)(i)(B)**.