

DATE: May 8, 2007
TO: Accreditation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee Members
FROM: Vickie Schray
SUBJECT: Information regarding June 1 rulemaking session

It has been a pleasure serving with all of you as a negotiator on the Accreditation Negotiated Rulemaking Committee. While this process can at times be challenging, it is important to remember that the goal of negotiated rulemaking is to fully engage the higher education community and the public in developing proposed rules. With your help we have made significant progress in revising the draft regulatory language to be responsive not only to our institutions and programs but also to the public that we serve.

In response to your request for a fourth session the Department agrees that a final session of negotiated rulemaking would be beneficial. It appears that the majority of you are available for a fourth session on June 1. As a result, the final session of negotiated rulemaking will be held in the 8th floor conference room at 1990 K Street, Washington DC from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Friday, June 1, 2007. Our contractor has secured a block of rooms at a nearby hotel for your convenience. Please contact the hotel directly to make your reservations.

Hotel Lombardy
2019 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
202-828-2600

Many of you have indicated that while the redlined version of the draft regulatory language provides a history of changes, it is difficult to read. In response we have prepared what I hope will be a helpful tool. Enclosed please find a reformatted version of the redlined document. This version provides a side by side of the draft regulatory language introduced by the Department at our second session and the most recent version under discussion. Also, please note that I've included a corrected version of the redlined document, which includes 602.27 under issue #14.

A number of you have also expressed interest in receiving the PowerPoint presentation prepared by Department staff in response to the concerns you raised at the first session. Staff is currently packaging the presentation into a discussion document for your review and comment. You can expect to receive it later this week.

I appreciate your interest and willingness to caucus and develop alternative language on the issues we have not yet fully discussed. We look forward to receiving an update on your progress prior to our June 1 session.