

MEETING SUMMARY

U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking Accreditation Committee February 21-23, 2007

This supercedes and replaces any other draft or prior meeting summary.

Welcome

Vickie Schray, Senior Advisor to the under Secretary, welcomed negotiators to the first session of negotiated rulemaking. Sally Wanner, Program Attorney, Office of the General Counsel accompanied Ms. Schray at the table.

Introductions of Negotiators and Alternates

Facilitator, Negotiators, and Alternates introduced themselves.

Review and Finalize Protocols

The Committee reviewed the draft organizational protocols. Protocols were accepted with very little discussion.

Petitions for Membership

Elise Scanlon, Accrediting Commission of Career Schools & Colleges of Technology petitioned to have Roger Williams, Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training accepted as her alternate negotiator. Betty Horton, Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors petitioned to have Susan Zlotlow, American Psychological Association Office of Program Consultation & Accreditation accepted as her alternate negotiator. Both were accepted by the Committee.

Review and Finalize Agenda Items

The Federal Negotiator discussed the Negotiated Rulemaking process and the parameters of the Higher Education Act. She explained that the Department is interested in hearing from the negotiators based on their experience and expertise. She then clarified the intent of the agenda discussion is to walk through all agenda items at a high level without extensive discussion. The Department initially identified 10 issues for discussion and negotiation. The topics accepted for discussion by consensus of the committee are:

1. Due Process
2. Substantive Change
3. Monitoring
4. Relationship of Input and Resource Standards to Student Achievement
5. Measures of Student Achievement
 - a. Standard Definitions of Terms Related to Student Achievement
 - b. Quantitative Standards for Programs Leading to Gainful Employment
 - c. Institutional Success with Respect to Student Achievement
6. Consideration of Mission in Application of Standards
7. Transfer of Credit and Acceptance of Credentials

8. Definition of Terms
 - a. Direct Assessment Programs
 - b. Scope of Recognition
9. Technical and Process Improvements
 - a. Recognition Procedures
 - b. Decision-making Authority
 - c. Record Keeping and Confidentiality of Agency Materials
10. Providing Information to the Public

Public Comment

The facilitator invited the public to comment at the end of the meeting. No comments were provided from the public in attendance.

Next Meeting

The Department will provide draft regulatory language for the 10 issues, to the extent possible, at least seven days prior to the next meeting. The next meeting will be held March 26-28, 2007 during which the Committee will undertake a thorough review of the draft language for each issue and attempt to reach tentative agreement on each item.