

MEAC Member School Meeting	Date: December 7, 2016
	Time: Convened 1:00 pm ET Adjourned 2:00 pm ET
	Type of Meeting: Teleconference
Attendees:	Nichole Reding (MEAC Board), Marissa Ohoyo (BUDM), Amari Fauna (BCM), Rachel Smith (FSTM), Vicki Penwell (MIA), Kristi Ridd Young (MCU and MEAC Board), Mariah Cranford (MCU), Sarah Carter (MCU), Kaylee Ridd (MCU), Courtney Everson (MCU and MEAC Board), Marcy Andrew (NCM), Shannon Anton (NMI), Emily Bissonnette (NMI), Sherry DeVries (SWTC), Trixi Packmohr (MEAC Staff), Karin Borgerson (MEAC Staff), Julia Reid (MEAC Staff)
Notes taken by:	Julia Reid

Minutes

Agenda Item:	MEAC Board and Staffing Updates	Presenter:	Nichole Reding
Discussion:	<p>Nichole Reding updates Member Schools on staffing search processes.</p> <p>Currently hiring new part-time Accreditation Coordinator position. Kristi Ridd Young chairing the hiring committee. Have 12 applicants. Will interview 3 candidates. Hope to have a candidate selected by the end of 2016.</p> <p>Hiring part-time Executive Director position. Courtney Everson describes the Search Advocate process. Member Schools will be receiving ED Job Posting and are asked to forward this to qualified applicants.</p> <p>MEAC Board and staff members have taken on additional workload in the interim.</p> <p>MEAC Board of Directors executive committee has been slightly reorganized in the last year. New VP Accreditation and VP Outreach positions developed. Have two new Executive Committee Members: Cassaundra Jah (Treasurer) and Abigail Aiyepola (Secretary).</p> <p>Courtney Everson appointed in October 2016 (replaced a Board member who left due to a move out of country).</p> <p>Formal election to fill open Board positions in February 2017. Please recommend individuals, especially those with business and financial background (send to info@meacschools.org).</p> <p>Member School Question: Who is on the Board of Directors? Nichole Reding shares the current Board list and general background on members. See also http://meacschools.org/meac-board-of-directors/</p>		
	Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓	None	None	None

Agenda Item:	Current Climate: Accreditation in the US and MEAC Recognition	Presenter:	Karin Borgerson
Discussion:	<p>Karin Borgerson shares an update on higher education accreditation in the US. MEAC is recognized by USDE: this allows for MEAC to be gate-keeper for USDE. MEAC's USDE recognition is tied closely with US-MERA.</p> <p>MEAC is evaluated periodically by USDE to maintain our recognition. Finished this process in 2015 (written process, site visit, NACIQI hearing). Received renewal of recognition, but found out-of-compliance with two areas. Must demonstrate full compliance with monitoring and enforcement of standards. MEAC has clarified monitoring vs. compliance reports (rather than "interim reports") to clarify when we are monitoring standards versus enforcing standards.</p> <p>MEAC will submit a written compliance report spring 2017 and attend a NACIQI hearing (likely June 2017).</p> <p>Accreditation has made national headlines in the US recently, with greater focus on ensuring proper student consumer protections, and supporting quality and innovation. In the past year, NACIQI and USDE tightened their oversight of accrediting agencies (June 2016, removed recognition for ACICS. Higher stakes and tougher process). In short-term, expect to see increased scrutiny of accreditors. However, not a lot of clarity on the future due to result of the recent presidential election.</p>		
	Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓	None	None	None

Agenda Item:	MEAC Standards Revision	Presenter:	Nichole Reding
Discussion:	<p>Currently in the process of doing an interim revision on Benchmarks I.C1 (Retention) and I.C2 (Completion). Courtney Everson describes MEAC efforts to address technical issues noted for these benchmarks, and to better align MEAC with national standards. Note methodological weakness. Working hard to address this issue.</p> <p>Nichole Reding describes multi-step stakeholder feedback process. Member Schools will be asked to provide feedback on this interim revision, as well as full standards revision process.</p> <p>Previous standards revision process began 2011 and ended 2013. Made many significant changes at that time, including new benchmarks for distance education, curricular competencies, etc. One goal for upcoming standards revision is to clarify language (especially in demonstrations). Heidi Fillmore is chairing Standards Revision Process. Will begin in 2017. Anticipate seeking specific feedback from specialists in spring/summer 2017 (ex: Title IV).</p> <p>Other needs identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • differentiate programmatic and institutional standards • establish clear degree standards • deepen clinical training oversight 		

- integrate equity lens on all benchmarks

Member School Question: Status of standards committee that had been canceled? Nichole Reding clarifies that this is a new format with a smaller committee to start, followed by specialists, then general stakeholder feedback.

Member School Question: What standards will MEAC be using in 2019 re-accreditation? At this time, we hope to have a new set of standards in January 2018. If already in a reaccreditation process, will likely fall under 2013 standards. Will be sending more information about implementing new standards as we are closer to the end of the process.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓ None	None	None

Agenda Item:	General Q&A	Presenter: Nichole Reding
Discussion:	<p>Any standards that will be changing drastically? At this time, all schools still under the 2013 standards. Information shared above includes some of the identified areas, but all standards under review. Lengthy process that includes stakeholder feedback.</p> <p>Please watch for interim I.C1 and I.C2 stakeholder feedback request in the next few months. June 2017 likely earliest general stakeholder feedback request will go out.</p>	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓ None	None	None