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Executive Director's Semiannual Report

The ABAP, Inc. Board appoints an Executive Director of Accreditation to be the chief staff of the Office of Accreditation. This is a contractual relationship which notes that the Director “provides leadership in carrying on the work of the ABAP, Inc. when and where appropriate.” Among other responsibilities, the Director “represents the interests of ABAP, Inc. on the national scene through participation in ASPA becoming conscious of recognition bodies...and works cooperatively with the national membership association and its leadership...” With these responsibilities in mind, I note these activities and concerns.

Recent and Current Accreditation Activity/Recruitment/Expiration Dates: The Executive Director “works with the Chair of the Committee on Accreditation for the scheduling of On-Site evaluations, agenda items for the COA, and facilitates communication regarding accreditation decisions and actions by the Board.” In the past year or so, the Office of Accreditation has facilitated a number of accreditation processes:

The Institute for Psychoanalytic Studies, Inc. in Teaneck, New Jersey, hosted an On-Site Evaluation on Tuesday, May 18, 2010. The Team included: Vicki Semel (ACAP), Pearl Appel (NPAP), and William Hurst (PPSC). Hurst has submitted the Evaluation Report to this Office as well as to the Committee on Accreditation. This will be discussed and a recommendation forthcoming from the COA Meeting on November 5, 2010.

The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies in NYC has submitted a thorough Self Study which the Committee on Accreditation discussed on April 24, 2010. The COA recommended that the Office of Accreditation schedule an On-Site Evaluation noting particular concerns and questions. This On-Site Evaluation will occur on Tuesday, December 7. The Evaluation Team will include: Jessica Mitchell, Team Chair; Carol Panetta (BGSP); Gil Bartlett (AAI-NY), and John Marino (CGJ-NY). This is a balanced team in terms of schools of psychoanalytic thought, gender, and market.

The Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis is an Affiliate Member preparing its application for initial accreditation, completing their Self Study, and anticipating an On-Site Evaluation in the not too distant future.

The Institute for Expressive Analysis has submitted its Self Study to the Office of Accreditation and the COA as its accreditation duration expired on November 1, 2009. Gil Bartlett has been consulting with Lynn Somerstein to revise their Self Study in such a manner as to address the COA's questions and concerns. The COA will have this application on its agenda for November 5. This was the first institute to actually submit two CDRoms with Self Study submitted digitally.

The Kentucky Psychoanalytic Institute's duration will expire on November 23, 2010. Their Self Study will be completed so it can be submitted to the COA on November 5th.

The Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute's duration will expire on November 23, 2010.

Proposed 2011 Annual Budget:

Jennifer Harper, our API Chair, reports that David Hamilton, Executive Secretary, for the licensing board in NYS, is strongly encouraging all registered psychoanalytic institutes to become accredited. He is aware that one of ABAP, Inc.'s accreditation standards is that an accredited program must be in compliance with a particular state's licensing and educational requirements. He also knows that professional accreditors conduct On-Site Evaluations, which would be hard to state licensing boards to do give tight state budgets.

We have held the line on dues and salary increases for a handful of years now. There are voices on our Finance Committee arguing for even larger dues and fees as well as investment in staff time than this Office projected. This had forced some dipping into the Vanguard Fund reserves. The agency's budget becomes very tight at this time of the year. Usually, late payments eventually are sent to the Bookkeeper. We have to remember that in 1996 under the NAAP umbrella, the annual accreditation dues were \$2,000. And, the indicator of sustainability was being part of the national membership association which could address budgetary shortfalls as well as the costs of petitioning for national recognition and showing up to address negative Third Party testimony at hearings at COPA, CORPA, and U.S.D. of Education.

Conditional Accreditation Status: The consensus at the last Board Meeting in Philadelphia was



that a Probationary or Conditional accreditation status be implemented in ABAP, Inc.'s policies and practices. This would mean integrating this new

policy into the *Revised Handbook on Accreditation*. Most ASPA accreditors favor "Conditional" in contrast to "Probationary" since it sounds more collegially constructive rather than an adverse status. This status would address accredited institutes who have fallen out of compliance with one or more standards but which could be addressed within a two year period. This status may also apply to programs which have not received an accreditation decision by the expiration date of their duration or have not submitted annual reports or annual dues and fees.

Annual Reports: Each psychoanalytic training program must submit an Annual Report by June 30 of each year following its certification of graduates. When Annual Dues and Annual Reports have been received, a Member-in-Good-Standing card will be mailed to the program to be affixed to the lower left hand corner of the program's Certificate of Accreditation. This is a necessary instrument to attest to accountability over the program's accreditation duration. This Office will inform the Committee of Accreditation of programs which do not submit these Annual Reports. This may lead to a focussed On-Site Evaluation with a \$1,000 cost to your institute. Mary Dougherty sent this Office an electronic format for this required report which was forwarded to all accredited programs. You can also find this on www.abapinc.org.

"ASPA provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of U.S. agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools. ASPA represents its members on issues of educational quality facing institutions of higher education, governments, students, and the public. ASPA also advances the knowledge, skills, good practices, and ethical commitments of accreditors, and communicates the value of accreditation as a means of enhancing educational quality."(Adopted: March 31, 2003)

"Specialized & Professional Accreditation: Specialized & professional accrediting bodies in the United States operate to ensure that students in educational programs receive an education consistent with standards for entry into practice or advanced practice in each of their respective fields or disciplines. With more than 60 member agencies, ASPA is the only unified, national voice that supports the importance of specialized and professional accreditation."

ASPA's Motto: "Enhancing quality in higher education through specialized and professional accreditation."

I have been attending the semiannual meetings of ASPA and representing our field on the national scene. The 2010 Fall Meeting was in Cincinnati. The Executive Director's Report once again noted the goals of ASPA. In discussing Three Year Goals, one goal spoke to an effort I have been encouraging for a decade now:

Goal 3: Make a deliberate effort to enhance the visibility and influence of ASPA as the voice for specialized and professional accreditation and as one of the prominent voices for accreditation in general.

3. Explore the offering of some form of acknowledgement, **recognition**, or endorsement for members of ASPA, particularly for those ineligible for more formal agency recognition by CHEA or the USDE.

I observed some frustration on the part of ASPA members with the narrow readings and policies which burden or intrude upon the autonomy and work of the accreditors by both US Dept. of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It became clearer to me that as frustration with CHEA grows, there will be greater motivation for a number of ASPA members to activate an ASPA recognition process.

ASPA YOUTUBE VIDEO

At the 2010 spring meeting in Chicago, an effort was made to prepare a YouTube Video to promote accreditation as well as ASPA. We had the chance to see this for the first time. I sent the address to connect with this video to our accreditation community, however, it is now available on our ABAP, Inc. website under the "Leadership Training" button. Below is a brief intro to the video:

"Specialized & Professional Accreditation: What Should I Know?" Learn who to ask to be sure your education will cover what you need to know to get a job in your chosen field. This video will help prospective students protect their tuition dollars by helping them learn what to ask about accreditation before they enroll in school. It is important that the institution be accredited but it is also important to check on the accreditation status of your specific program of study - e.g., nursing, medicine, music, psychology, psychoanalysis, law, social work, many health care fields, and many other disciplines. Produced by ASPA on behalf of its 61 members.

New Federal Reporting Requirement:

Cynthia Davenport sent out a note to ASPA Members noting that the Federal Form 1099 reporting requirements have been expanded going forward and beginning on January 1, 2012, businesses will be required to report to the IRS all payments made for goods or services totaling \$600 or more in a calendar year. Although there are some exceptions, this will be a burdensome process for accounting in accreditation agencies. By next year, organizations will need to have a W-9 form on file from ASPA. This may be needed for meeting registrations or payment for ASPA dues for the new fiscal year. Cynthia proactively forwarded a signed W-9 form which I will pass on to the CPA who will do the annual tax return. I believe this reporting requirement would also involve 1099s ref staff salaries, D&O Insurance, and other expenses and services over \$600.

ASPA Names Joseph Vibert as New Executive Director

Cynthia Davenport is retiring after 16 years of valued service as ASPA's first Executive Director. There is now a special leadership award in her honor of which she is now the first recipient. Mr. Vibert brings over two decades of experience in accreditation, credentialing, education, administration, strong advocacy and leadership skills to ASPA. He has noted, "I feel that it is critically important for accreditors to have the ability to self-govern in their efforts to ensure quality among accredited programs and schools. Having worked on both sides of the accreditation table, I am excited to begin my work with ASPA as their new Executive Director. I look forward to engaging our members, regulators and other key stakeholders to advance the quality of professional education and training in the United States.

What Criteria Might Be Used in Regard to Public Members of an Accrediting Board?

The following is how we might paraphrase another accreditor's characterization of criteria for a Public Member. A public member should be selected on the basis of being an individual with an informed, broad-gauged community point of view who can contribute a fresh outside perspective to accrediting problems. A public member must not be (1) an employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, the sponsoring institution or program that either is accredited by the accreditation agency or has applied for agency accreditation; (2) a member of or individual associated an institute/program accredited by the American Board for Accreditation in Psychoanalysis, Inc.; or (3) a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an individual identified in (1) or (2). The Public Member representing the consumer in education must: represent higher education (e.g., non- faculty, consultant, administrator), be able to gain knowledge regarding the specialized and professional accreditation, represent the consumer of education, demonstrate a commitment to public service, have no psychoanalytical training, commit to a three-year appointment and agree to attend three meetings per year.

Payment of Fees ref Appeals:

There has been much discussion on the List Serve of ASPA in regard to the requirements for accreditors to have Appeals Panels. This has led to the question of who pays the expenses of an appeals process. ABAP, Inc. has an adequate appeals process. Some accreditors are requesting that a deposit check be sent in with the appeals request to cover expenses, if in fact, an Appels Panel does not overturn the accreditor's action. A proposal is in your meeting materials.

Request for Third Party Remarks:

Although ABAP, Inc. identifies the need for Third Party Remarks, the detailed process is not really articulated well in the Revised Handbook on Accreditation. A proposal is included in your meeting materials

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Dalrymple". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

David J. Dalrymple, Ph.D., N.C.PsyA.
Executive Director, Office of Accreditation
November 5, 2010