



Number 8
September 8, 2010

Report from the Accrediting Commission

The DETC Accrediting Commission met on September 2, 2010, and gave approval to the following documents to go out for public comment in accordance with DETC's D.5. Adopting and Promulgating Standards and Policies:

- Revised Eligibility Requirements to Apply for Accreditation
- Revised C.20. Policy on Complaints
- Revised D.1. Providing the Chair's Report, Institution's Response, and Advising the Institution of the Commission's Decision
- New D.1.1. Actions Available to the Commission
- Revised D.2. Requesting Appeal of Commission's Decision

DETC Accrediting
Commission gave approval
to several documents.

To view these documents, please go to DETC's web site (www.detc.org) and select "Call for Public Comment" on the homepage.

Any comments on the above document revisions should be sent to Sally Welch at DETC (sally@detc.org) before **October 15, 2010**. All comments will be considered by the Commission and final documents will be published shortly thereafter.

Overview on Changes

Eligibility to Apply for Accreditation: This list of requirements is on page 16 and 17 of the 2010 *DETC Accreditation Handbook*. The list includes various DETC standards and policies that will have an impact on an institution's overall qualifications to submit an application for **initial accreditation**. It only affects new applicants, not currently accredited institutions. It proposes that the DETC may do a background check on an institution's owners, officers or executives. It also proposes that initial grants of accreditation will be for a **maximum of three years** (it is currently five years), with certain exceptions available.

Please send your comments
on the changes to DETC by
October 15, 2010.

C.20. Policy on Complaints: This is a revision of sections of the 35 year old DETC complaint policy. It has been brought into the Internet age to allow consumers to file complaints online to DETC.

D.1. Providing the Chair's Report, Institution's Response, and Advising the Institution of the Commission's Decision: This is the same language in the original document, accept that the available actions of the Commission were placed in a new document, D 1.1. (see below).

(over please)

New D.1.1. Actions Available to the Commission: This document is a new one that lists the actions available to the Commission in making a decision that were formerly listed in document D.1. It lists a **new action** for the Commission to use, that of a “**show cause**” **action** that is common to almost every accrediting association today. Show cause is defined in the new language in D.1.1.

Revised D.2. Requesting Appeal of Commission’s Decision: This document has been revised to have DETC’s appeal of Commission decisions process come into *more precise* alignment with the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) and new Federal Criteria for Recognition of Accrediting Agencies on appeals procedures. It eliminates the option of seeking a reconsideration of a decision by the full Commission, since this process no longer meets the requirements of the HEOA for appeal actions.

Final Adoption

The Commission also gave final adoption to the revised documents:

C.4. Policy on Change of Location or New Administrative Site
E.6. 2010 Annual Report

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DETC Accrediting Commission will be January 13-14, 2011. All matters to be considered by the Commission should be brought to the attention of the Executive Director by no later than **December 1, 2010**.

Michael P. Lambert, Executive Director