

MSCHE Newsletter

Middle States Commission
on Higher Education

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

www.msache.org

Winter 2005

Commissioners Started Terms in January



Drs. Edward Boehm, Ellen Miller Casey, R. Barbara Gitenstein, and Marlene Springer joined the Commission for full terms from January 2005 to December 2007. Dr. Danielle Carr Ramdath continues her term from January 2005 to December 2006.

Marshall University, Texas Christian University, and The American University in Washington, DC. He earned his Ed.D. from The American University.

Dr. Casey is Distinguished University Fellow, Professor of English, and Director of the Honors Program at the

COMMISSIONERS' TERMS
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Dr. Boehm has served as president of Keystone College in Pennsylvania since 1995. Prior to joining Keystone, he held increasingly responsible positions at

Jean Morse, the Middle States' Executive Director, testified last Fall about diploma mills before the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness of the congressional Committee on Education and the Workforce. She represented C-RAC, the Council of Regional Accreditors.

Secretary Margaret Spellings recently announced the initiation of a USED website that posts all institutions accredited by agencies recognized by USED. These

DIPLOMA MILLS
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Top (L to R):
Dr. Edward Boehm &
Dr. Ellen Miller Casey.

Center: Dr. R. Barbara
Gitenstein &
Dr. Marlene Springer

Left:
Dr. Danielle
Carr Ramdath

Congressional interest in the subject remains high, and House leaders recently called for protections for consumers. US Education Department

Suskie and Kiphart Join Commission Staff as Dasher- Alston Retires

Ms. Linda Suskie and Dr. Michael Kiphart joined the staff of the Commission on Higher Education in January 2005. Dr. Robin Dasher-Alston retired in December 2004.

Suskie and Kiphart will serve as liaisons to member and candidate institutions, participate in training sessions for evaluators and institutions preparing for peer review,

NEW COMMISSION STAFF
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Revised Policies Now Online

Several policy statements were revised, and the complete set of policies is now available online in *Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, and Best Practices* (7th edition, 2005).

Changes affect the policies on substantive changes, range of Commission actions, peer reviewers, and complaints.

The policies were revised to clarify areas raised by members and to make the requirements in the standards less burdensome. Some requirements have been eliminated and others now apply only in certain circumstances.

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Diploma Mills

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agencies include all regional accreditors and several specialized and national accreditors.

Ms. Morse explained how regional accreditation sifts out diploma mills, including using high standards and repeated review of new applicant institutions. She noted that regional accreditors publish lists of institutions accredited by them, and the status of each individual institution.

She suggested other remedies that might be available: improvement and co-ordination of state licensing requirements; increased federal prosecution by the FBI; state fraud prosecution; state legislation relating to use of fake or substandard degrees; FTC action against the use of the word "accredited"; advertising boycotts; and legislative protection against litigation for those who publish lists of diploma mills.

H.R. 507, substantially similar to H.R. 4283 that was introduced last Spring, is intended to re-start the legislative process. It is expected that changes will occur before passage in the House.

The Senate is expected to begin consideration this year. It is possible that difficulties concerning the financial provisions of reauthorization will delay passage of the portions of the statute that affect accreditation.

Middle States will continue to advise members of important developments, and we would appreciate your calling us with comments and suggestions. ★

Commissioners' Terms

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University of Scranton. She brings the experience of having served on the University's committees, on Middle States evaluation teams, and as a reviewer of Periodic Review Reports. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

PRR Workshop Slated for April

A workshop for institutions preparing to submit a Periodic Review Report in June 2007 will be held on April 8, 2005, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Philadelphia.

Institutions scheduled for June 2006, who did not attend in 2004, also will be invited to attend.

Invitations will be mailed to the chief executive officers in February with registration instructions. ★

Dr. Gitenstein, President, The College of New Jersey, has more than 25 years of experience in the public and private sectors, including in the SUNY system and at Drake University. She was appointed to the Commission in June 2003 to fill a vacancy and now begins her own term.

Dr. Springer has served as the president of CUNY College of Staten Island since 1994. Previously she was Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at East Carolina University. A member of the ACE Commission on Women in Higher Education and the New York City Commission on Women's Issues, she

earned her Ph.D. at Indiana University.

Dr. Ramdath is a program officer for higher education at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in New York City. Originally appointed in 2004 to complete the unexpired term of a public representative who resigned, she now completes her own term.

Formerly Visiting Professor of Mathematics at Sarah Lawrence College, she was also Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Bryn Mawr College. She earned her Ph.D. in mathematics from Duke University. ★

Revised Policies Online

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The new policies are available as a publication on the Commission website at www.msache.org. Users can click on the Table of Contents and go directly to a policy of interest. They then can either print an individual policy or save the entire pdf file to their own computers for future reference.

Following are some of the critical areas:

Substantive Change

Some new degree levels that institutions offer at their branches and additional locations may be substantive changes.

Institutions that are experiencing rapid growth sometimes must obtain advance approval from the Commission.

Range of Commission Actions

The revisions explain the ways in which the Commission "accepts," "acknowledges," or "rejects" letters or reports.

Peer Reviewers

Long-standing policies on the Selection of Chairs and Evaluation Team Members and on Evaluation Team Associates, inadvertently omitted from the Sixth Edition, were reinstated and clarified in this edition.

Complaints and Third-party Comment

The Commission may, at its discretion, become involved in substantive concerns that members of the public or an institution's constituents raise. ★

Save the Dates

November 7-8, 2005

The Self-Study Institute

**DoubleTree Hotel
Philadelphia**

*For institutions scheduled
to be evaluated in 2007-08*

**Invitations will be mailed
to CEOs at eligible institutions
in March 2005**

December 4-6, 2005

**MSCHE Annual
Conference**

**Baltimore Marriott
Waterfront Hotel**

Visit www.msache.org for
the latest information.

New Commission Staff

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and serve as accreditation and policy-development resources to the Commission.

A nationally recognized authority on assessment, Ms. Suskie was formerly the Associate Vice President of Assessment and Institutional Research at Towson University, Maryland; Director of the AAHE Assessment Forum, American Association for Higher Education; and Director of Planning, Assessment, and Analysis, Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

She has served on evaluation teams for Middle States and has presented many workshops for Middle States and others on the assessment of student learning. She also is the author of numerous publications, most recently *Assessing Student Learning: A Common Sense Guide* (Anker, 2004).

Ms. Suskie earned a bachelor's degree in quantitative studies from Johns Hopkins University and a master's in educational measurement and statistics from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Kiphart was formerly the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission, where he coordinated the development and implementation of state policies that affect colleges and universities that operate in Maryland and reviewed the academic programs of institutions in the state.

In his over 19 years of professional experience in higher education teaching, curriculum development, administration, planning, and



Left: Ms. Linda Suskie. Right: Dr. Michael Kiphart

policy development, he also served as vice president, Maryland Independent College and University Association, and he was associate provost for academic services at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Kiphart earned his Ph.D. in Psychology from Colorado State University.

Dasher-Alston

Dr. Robin M. Dasher-Alston retired in December 2004 as Executive Associate Director for the Middle States

Commission on Higher Education, where she held a variety of senior positions for the past 16 years.

While she served as Associate Director of the Commission, she also was appointed Interim Secretary and Business Manager for the Middle States Association.

She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. ★

Members' Websites Need Updating

Many members list the Commission's old telephone number when they refer to their accredited status on their websites and in their print publications.

The new telephone number is 267-284-5000. The old number, 215-662-5606, will continue to transfer calls for the immediate future, but a change in the members' publications is advisable at this time.

The appropriate way for an institution to refer to its accredited status is outlined in the Commission's policy statement, "Advertising, Student Recruitment, and Representation of Accredited Status."

The policy statement is included in *Policies, Guidelines, Procedures & Best Practices* (7th Edition), which is a pdf publication at www.msache.org. ★

New Executive Associates To Assist Commission Staff

Drs. Jane W. Altes, William A. Connor, and Mary Lee Seibert were appointed Executive Associates in fall 2004 to assist the staff liaisons to institutions with a range of responsibilities.

They will work with applicant and candidate institutions, visit domestic additional locations and some sites at international institutions, conduct follow-up staff visits, review progress letters and substantive change proposals, and support new Commission initiatives. However, institutions will continue to be assigned to their regular



Left: Dr. Jane Altes. Center: Dr. William A. Connor. Right: Dr. Mary Lee Seibert

staff liaisons as their primary contacts.

Dr. Altes is the former vice president for academic affairs and former president of SUNY Empire State College,

New York. Dr. Connor is the former president of Sussex County Community College, NJ. Dr. Seibert is the former Vice President for Academic Affairs, Utica College, New York. ★

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education took the following actions on November 21, 2004.

Accreditation Reaffirmed via Evaluation Visit:

New York University, NY
Siena College, NY
University of Pennsylvania, PA

Accreditation Reaffirmed via Periodic Review Report:

Adelphi University, NY
Albany College of Pharmacy of Union University, NY
Arcadia University, PA
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA
Bryn Mawr College, PA
Burlington County College, NJ
City University of New York - Bronx Community College, NY
City University of New York - Brooklyn College, NY
City University of New York - Hunter College, NY
City University of New York - Herbert H. Lehman College, NY
City University of New York - Queensborough Community College, NY
Elizabethtown College, PA
Franklin and Marshall College, PA
Georgian Court University, NJ
Goucher College, MD
Hartwick College, NY
Haverford College, PA
Hofstra University, NY
Howard University, DC
Maryland Institute College of Art, MD
Metropolitan College of New York, NY
Rowan University, NJ
Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, PA
St. Francis College, NY
Schenectady County Community College, NY
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, PA
State University of New York - Upstate Medical University, NY
Swarthmore College, PA
Trocaire College, NY
Union Theological Seminary, NY
University of the Arts, PA
Ursinus College, PA
Vassar College, NY
Washington and Jefferson College, PA
Washington Theological Union, DC
Wells College, NY
Wesley College, DE

Commission Actions

November 17, 2004

A "Statement of Accreditation Status" (SAS) is available for each institution listed below. The SAS is the official public record of each institution's current status and recent accreditation history, and it provides a context for Commission actions. Submit requests in writing to the Executive Director, Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Substantive Change:

alternative delivery method

Berkeley College, NY
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, PA
Brookdale Community College, NJ
Broome Community College, NY
Carnegie Mellon University, PA
Delaware County Community College, PA
Georgian Court University, NJ
Jamestown Community College, NY
Niagara County Community College, NY
Thomas Jefferson University, PA
Tompkins Cortland Community College, NY
University of Scranton, PA

new degree level

The American University of Paris, France (Masters)
City University of New York - York College, NY (Masters)
College Misericordia, PA (Doctoral)
Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Fajardo, PR (Masters)
Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Ponce, PR (Masters)
Lebanon Valley College, PA (Doctoral)
Nazareth College, NY (Doctoral)
St. Francis College, NY (Masters)
Universidad del Turabo - Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez, PR (Doctoral)
Wilkes University, PA (Masters)

additional location

The American University, DC (Silver Springs, Maryland)
Berkeley College, NY (130 William Street, Manhattan, NY)
Carnegie Mellon University, PA (Los Angeles)
Columbia Union College, MD (Gaithersburg, Maryland)
Community College of Beaver County, PA (California University of Pennsylvania and Aliquippa Community Hospital)
Daemen College, NY (Brooklyn, NY)

Pittsburgh Technical Institute, PA (Cranberry Woods)
Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, PR (Winter Park, Florida)
Robert Morris University, PA (CCAC Boyce Campus, Cranberry Woods, and Concurrent Technologies)
Saint Joseph's University, PA (Nanjing University, Xi'an Jiao Tong University, Donghua University, China Pharmaceutical University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Alberto Hurtado University, Dr. N.G.P. College of Arts and Sciences, and Kovai Medical Center and Hospital.)
State University of New York - College of Technology at Canton, NY (Messena Education Center)
Widener University, PA (Exton)
Wilkes University, PA (Reading, Towanda, Williamsport, Langhorne, Quakertown, Mechanicsburg, Harrisburg, Allentown, Schnecksville, Jim Thorpe, Bloomsburg, Milton, Mt. Carmel, Kennett Square, Valley Forge, Bethlehem, Milford, Bartonsville, Broadheadsville, Mt. Pocono, Glen Mills, Lancaster, Chambersburg, Oxford, Waynesboro, York, Mountaintop, Freeland, Shickshinny, Tunkhannock, New Milford, Archbald, Hawley, Pottsville, Lewistown)

new branch campus

Carnegie Mellon University, PA
Eastern University, PA

new credential

Frostburg State University, MD (Certificate)
Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan College, NY (Certificate)

Follow-up Reports/Candidate Reports/Visits/Developments:

[(*) Reference to these institutions appears more than once in the Summary of Actions. Reports and/or visits were required prior to CHE action.]

Baltimore International College, MD
Berkeley College, NY
Butler County Community College, PA

City University of New York - Borough of Manhattan Community College, NY
Columbia Centro Universitario, PR
Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico, PR
County College of Morris, NJ
Davis College, NY
Delaware College of Art and Design, DE
Gannon University, PA
Hudson County Community College, NJ
Inter American University of Puerto Rico - Central Administration, PR
International University in Geneva, Switzerland
John Cabot University, Italy
Joint Military Intelligence College, DC
Keuka College, NY
La Roche College, PA
Marymount Manhattan College, NY
Mercy College, NY
Montclair State University, NJ
Pennsylvania College of Art and Design, PA
Pennsylvania Institute of Technology, PA
Polytechnic University, NY
Potomac College, DC
Reading Area Community College, PA
School of Visual Arts, NY
Sojourner-Douglass College, MD
State University of New York - College at Buffalo, NY
State University of New York - College at Plattsburgh, NY
State University of New York - College at Potsdam, NY
State University of New York - College of Technology at Canton, NY
Sussex County Community College, NJ
Touro College, NY
Universidad Politecnica de Puerto Rico, PR
University College of San Juan, PR
University of Baltimore, MD
University of Puerto Rico - Carolina Campus, PR
University of Puerto Rico - Medical Sciences Campus, PR
University of Puerto Rico - Utuado Campus, PR
University of the District of Columbia, DC
Yeshiva University, NY