

ASPA News

July
2011

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

Message from ASPA's Chair

Neil Harvison, Director of Accreditation and Academic Affairs, ACOTE (Occupational Therapy)

I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank you for your support and encouragement on my recent election to the position of Chair of the Board of Directors. I am looking forward to working with all of you as we continue to grow as an organization. I need to especially acknowledge and thank Pete Vlasses who has served ASPA for the past three years as our Chair of the Board of Directors. Pete's strong and decisive leadership style guided us through a period of marked transition as we said farewell to our inaugural Executive Director Cynthia Davenport and welcomed Joseph Vibert to his new role. All of this was achieved while we were seeing unprecedented scrutiny of accreditation in both congress and the press. When I joined the Board of Directors two years ago I quickly learned the important role and long hours that Pete has devoted to our association and membership. This is why I was thrilled to learn that Pete has committed to stay on the Board in the role as Treasurer despite my reservations about putting a Chicago insider in charge of the books!

One of Pete's key initiatives was to increase collaboration and communication with other accrediting agencies. This goal came to fruition this summer when ASPA Executive Director Joseph Vibert, ERIC Chair Susan Zlotlow and I were invited to meet with Executive Directors of the regional accrediting agencies at their annual meeting in Washington. We had a productive meeting on common issues and left with a commitment to further collaboration between our two groups. This will include a half day meeting being planned for next May between the ASPA Board of Directors and the regional accrediting agency leaders.

Expanding the working relationships with our colleagues in accreditation and the higher education community was one of the goals we identified when we created our current strategic plan (2010-2012) at the spring meeting in 2009. Other goals were to (1) ensure staffing capacity to meet the

needs of ASPA; (2) implement initiatives to enhance ASPA operations; (3) increase the visibility of ASPA; and (4) ensure ASPA is proactively prepared for the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. In the upcoming months we will be communicating with the Members on the significant progress we have made on each of these initiatives and the goals the Board has established for the final year of the current strategic plan.

At our upcoming meeting in Atlanta this fall we will conduct a strategic planning session with the Members to start preparing the new strategic plan (2013-2015). This will be an interactive session where Members will be asked to identify the key issues that will guide our strategic initiatives over the next 3 years. Paul Gaston will be back in a familiar role to facilitate the session. I look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta for a productive meeting. ■

Reviewer Training, Evolved

2011 Fall Professional Development Program

Take your reviewer training to a more advanced level of engagement. Instructional designer and technologist Jim Guilkey will take us on this journey to enhanced reviewer effectiveness on **Monday, September 12 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm and Tuesday, September 13 from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon** at the Westin Buckhead, Atlanta. Registration for this session is available whether or not you plan to attend the ASPA meeting.

Go to www.aspa-usa.org/meetings for the registration form and agenda.

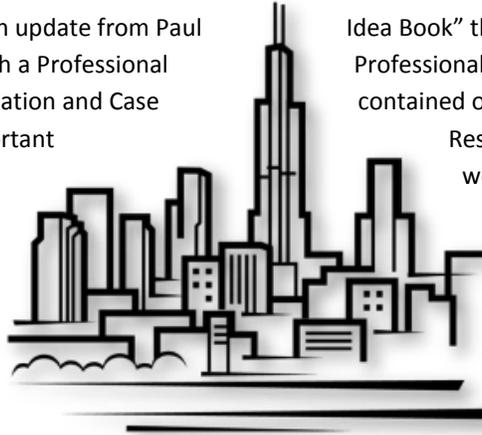
Springtime in Chicago - report on the ASPA April 2011 meeting

Kathleen Megivern, Vice Chair ASPA Board; Executive Director, CAAHEP (Allied Health)

One attendee thought the hotel was too dark and inappropriate for a meeting, while someone else commented on the “great décor and lighting;” one person wanted more sessions on legal issues, another said “no more legal perspectives.” But while there may have been varied opinions about some of the meeting details, everyone agreed on the value of the ASPA Spring meeting in Chicago.

Beginning with the spirited “members only” session that looked at an array of issues and included an update from Paul Gaston on the Bologna Process, ending with a Professional Development panel on “Consistency, Regulation and Case Law,” the two days were chock full of important information and the kind of invaluable sharing that can only happen at an ASPA meeting.

Monday morning started with a session titled “ASPA - The Next Generation.” Facilitated by outgoing Chair, Pete Vlasses, this session also provided an excellent opportunity to introduce ASPA’s new Executive Director, Joseph Vibert. The morning session ended with a session on competency based standards and an effort to answer the provocative question, “are all outcomes created equal?”



The Professional Development Committee put together a workshop titled “A 360° Approach to Consistency in Accreditation.” While all of the sessions were well received, post-meeting evaluations indicated that the panel on “Aligning Perception with Reality” was far and away the “star of the show.” “Good presenters...”, “great ideas,” “...helpful and energizing” were some of the comments.

Also notable about this meeting was the wonderful “ASPA Idea Book” that was put together by the 2011 Spring Professional Development Committee. The book contained over 300 pages of Training and Orientation Resources, Evaluation Resources, sample workshop agendas, press releases and newsletters. The evaluation forms included many enthusiastic comments about the value of this resource.

What was considered most valuable for meeting attendees? While everyone undoubtedly had his or her favorite session, the comments on the evaluation forms emphasized over and over again the wonderful variety of ideas and the terrific value of sharing problems, strategies and solutions with other accreditors.

And that, after all, is the greatest value of ASPA. ■

Message from ASPA’s Executive Director

Joseph Vibert

I’ve been on the job now for six months – and what an exciting time it has been! Just to mention a few of the things that have been going on ... I’ve had the pleasure of in-person meetings with over half of the ASPA membership and many of our colleagues and stakeholders in accreditation and higher education – and will continue to make the rounds over the next months. We participated in the development of and signed on to several community letters regarding the credit hour definition and state authorization regulations. We are compiling information from all states about requirements for state authorization. We started a monthly e-newsletter to keep the membership informed of key ASPA activities. Plans are underway to develop learning modules and preparation for a strategic planning session at the September 2011 meeting has begun.

One of the items of business at ASPA spring meetings is the election of members to the Board. ASPA bid adieu to Donna Gollnick who completed her term as Treasurer and Rod Erickson who completed his term as Institutional Chief Academic Officer member. We are very grateful for their service to ASPA. Pete Vlasses completed his term as Chair and was elected as Treasurer; Pauletta Bracy was elected to a second term as Academic member; and Neil Harvison was elected Chair. As well, two new Directors were elected: Ulric Chung as Chief Staff Officer member and Kumble Subbaswamy as Institutional Chief Academic Officer member.

I look forward to working with the Board and the Members to support and ensure that specialized accreditors have a voice in these “interesting” times for accreditation and higher education. ■

Welcome to our New Board Members



Ulric Chung joined the ADA's Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) as Executive Director on August 25, 2008; however, he has almost ten years of experience in accreditation as a former executive staff member at the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). While at ACPE, Dr. Chung applied his expertise in education and

the use of technology to evaluate doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) degree programs, especially those using distance education, and continuing pharmacy education providers. In addition, he helped to simplify and standardize ACPE's accreditation practices by developing computer-based accreditation tools, evaluation instruments, educational materials and accreditation training workshops. Today, evaluation instruments, unofficially referred to as "Ulric's rubrics," are the foundation for self study reports and accreditation reviews at every college of pharmacy, school of pharmacy, and ACPE-accredited continuing pharmacy education provider.

His experience prior to his appointment at ACPE includes interactive-multimedia design and development on commercial and academic software applications for Microsoft Corporation, Pfizer, Searle, and the University of Illinois. His work on video simulations in teacher training and foreign-language education was central in allowing the University of Illinois at Urbana's Language Learning Laboratory to obtain a grant from IBM and to become developers in the Language-Learning and Multimedia Applications (LLAMA) Consortium. He has taught adult learners in the Computer-Assisted Language Learning and Instruction Outreach Project for Education (CALLIOPE), a State-of-Illinois project to help language teacher integrate technology into the curriculum. From 1993 to 1999, Dr. Chung was on the faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy (UIC). While at UIC, he created FAX CE an automated continuing-education and testing system. Dr. Chung also developed a web-based automated continuing-education and testing system, Inet-CE, now being used at Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy. In 2002, he completed a grant from FIPSE at the U.S. Department of Education to develop "Preceptor" a project to create intelligent multimedia simulations for teaching patient care.

Currently, Dr. Chung's interests are in developing approaches for simplifying and standardizing accreditation activities while maintaining or increasing quality not only at CADE, but also in collaboration with other accrediting agencies through the use of technology and training. Dr. Chung holds a Bachelor's in French teaching with a Minor in Computer-Aided Instruction, a Master of Computer Science, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction focusing on Interactive Multimedia. ■

Kumble R. Subbaswamy became the second Provost of the University of Kentucky on July 1, 2006. Dr. Subbaswamy, who is known on campus as "Swamy", completed his undergraduate studies in India and came to Indiana University, Bloomington in the U.S. as a graduate student in 1971. He completed his Ph.D. in theoretical condensed matter



physics in 1976. After serving as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, Irvine, Dr. Subbaswamy began his long relationship with the University of Kentucky when he joined the physics faculty here in 1978. His primary research area as a physicist was the optical properties of novel materials, and nonlinear excitations; he has published more than 60 research articles and co-authored a monograph. Dr. Subbaswamy was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 1989. During his first eighteen years at the University of Kentucky, he served as Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences and as Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. In 1997, he was recruited away to join the University of Miami as the Dean of Arts and Sciences. He returned to Indiana University in July 2000 as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, remaining in that position until 2006. There he oversaw the development of many new programs (e.g., international studies, biotechnology) and a major reinvestment in the life sciences. During this time, he was active in the Committee for Institutional Cooperation (Big 10), and a coordinator of the Association of American Universities Arts & Sciences Deans' group. He was very active in economic development efforts based on biotechnology in Central Indiana.

Upon being recruited back to the University of Kentucky to assume the role of Provost in 2006, Dr. Subbaswamy began significant efforts to translate the institution's legislatively-mandated Top 20 Business Plan into reality. In addition to the University's Top 20 aspirations, Dr. Subbaswamy has also led efforts in the areas of student retention and success; reform of UK's general education curriculum; internationalization; diversity and inclusion; interdisciplinary research and training; and strategic planning and assessment.

Dr. Subbaswamy has just concluded a term as a member of the Board of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, and as Board Chair of the South Eastern Conference Academic Consortium. He currently serves as a Board of Director of Coldstream Laboratories, Inc. (a UK start-up company), and is a member of the Board of the Kentucky World Trade Center. He is also on the Steering Committee of Bluegrass Bio, an economic development undertaking of Commerce Lexington. ■

Why should we be Members of ASPA?

Enhancing quality in higher education through specialized and professional accreditation

The Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors is the only unified, national organization that supports the importance of specialized and professional accreditation. Our 60 member association 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.

Membership in ASPA has much to offer:

Professional development and continuing education - our twice yearly meetings allow us to stay informed of important trends and developments in accreditation and provide educational sessions that showcase best practices.

Networking and peer interaction - membership encourages the exchange of ideas so that we may learn from other accreditors to improve our own performance. It provides a forum for focused discussion and analysis with members across the country, as well as a mechanism to promote common action.

Representation and advocacy - the association reinforces the importance of specialized accreditation by contributing to a unified, national voice. It is the only association that solely represents specialized accreditation with and to broader communities. The association addresses accreditation issues

in educational, governmental (including Federal legislation), and public policy contexts and communicates with the public about accreditation.

Enhancement of the credibility and image of accreditation - members agree to abide by the *ASPA Member Code of Good Practice* that describes a high standard of professionalism that embraces the importance of focusing on educational quality, maintaining a respectful relationship

between the accreditor and the institution under review, and requiring a thorough and effective orientation, training and development program for all personnel.

Visit www.aspa-usa.org/membership for more information and to apply for membership. ■

Register Now

ASPA Fall 2011 Meeting

September 11 – 13, 2011
The Westin Buckhead Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

Go to www.aspa-usa.org/meetings for registration forms and schedules.

Save the Date

ASPA Professional Development Program – March 26 and 27, 2012 – Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, VA

Assessment – beyond certification, graduation and employment rates - is the working title for the Spring 2012 professional development program. Some topic areas include:

- assessment of outcomes with a focus on quality improvement
- measuring quality versus achievement
- relationships with industry and how to measure the value of programs to communities of interest
- how accreditors view their role in assessment and what they require from programs relative to assessment

- practical tips for transitioning to assessment-focused accreditation

With today's focus on student achievement outcomes, this session promises to bring forward new ideas on what to measure and how – outside of the licensure and employment boxes. Perspectives from different interest groups will be presented, including assessment coordinators, education administrators and industry representatives.

Mark your calendars now! ■

Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors

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