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CAAL
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Agenda Item 3

January 7, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Terrye Seckinger and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing
FROM: John Lane, DMA, Director of Academic Affairs

Discussion with Chief Academic Officers from Public Institutions

During the consideration of proposals for new academic programs, members of the Committee for Academic Affairs and Licensing (CAAL) frequently ask questions about the components of colleges and universities' infrastructure needed to help ensure the institutions' successful implementation and assessment of proposed new programs. Representatives from the institutions, led by their chief academic officers, have been interested in providing responses of satisfactory depth and breadth. While the CHE program approval process provides a forum for committee members to raise such questions, usually time constraints and the number of programs to consider do not facilitate consummate discussion. Among the quality assurance questions asked most often, CAAL members inquire about institutions' marketing and geographic strengths, program costs and the return on investment, employer needs and workforce projections, accreditation, and the institutions' internal program approval processes. With no new proposals to consider this cycle, the Division of Academic Affairs has invited chief academic officers from the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs (ACAP) to help facilitate discussion and better understanding about these important topics during this time normally appropriated for proposal consideration.