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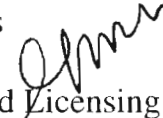
ACAP
Agenda Item 7
07/17/2008

Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director

July 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Advisory Committee on Academic Programs

From: Dr. Gail M. Morrison, Director of Academic Affairs and  Licensing

Consideration of Request for the Addition of an Accrediting Agency to the List of National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies Recognized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

The Medical University of South Carolina requests the addition of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) to the *List of National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies Recognized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education*. ARC-PA is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as an approved accrediting body and therefore is eligible to be added to the list as an approved accrediting agency. Additional information about ARC-PA can be accessed at <http://www.arc-pa.org/>.

According to the request submitted by MUSC, ARC-PA is a spin-off from the PA program's previous accreditation under the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) that had been approved previously by CHE. CAAHEP no longer accredits PA programs, which leaves MUSC without a CHE-approved accrediting body for its PA program. Staff concurs that the lack of an approved accrediting body does not reflect the true status of the program and that inclusion of ARC-PA on the *List of National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies Recognized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education* will correct this situation.

In accordance with the new *Policy for Approval of Specialized Accreditation Agencies* approved by the Commission at its meeting on May 1, 2008, unanimous Advisory Committee on Academic Programs approval of the addition of ARC-PA

to the *List* will allow it to be added immediately without further review by the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing or the Commission. The full *Policy* is posted at

[http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/Policy_for Approval of Specialized Accreditation Agencies.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/Policy_for_Approval_of_Specialized_Accreditation_Agencies.pdf).

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs approve the addition of the Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) to the *List of National Institutional and Specialized Accrediting Bodies Recognized by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education*, to be effective immediately.