

Dear CAPCSD Members,

Over the past two years, at the direction of its members (See the resolutions below), the CAPCSD hosted a series of facilitated meetings on accreditation with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and their affiliated accrediting body, the Council on Academic Accreditation, and the American Academy of Audiology and their affiliated accrediting body, the Accreditation Commission of Audiology Education. The final meeting occurred in October, 2006, and following that meeting representatives from ACAE and CAA developed a White Paper entitled, *Framework for Development of a Single Accrediting Body for Audiology*, which outlined issues that had to be addressed in forming a single accrediting body.

The CAPCSD Executive Board is pleased that the facilitated meetings opened communication among AAA, ACAE, ASHA, and CAA about accreditation issues facing academic programs. The meetings also provided a face-to-face opportunity for the associations and councils to clearly articulate their positions on issues of importance to members of the CAPCSD.

Over the past year, the two professional organizations and the two accrediting bodies have discussed this paper, and they recently provided their respective responses. The White Paper and four responses may be found on the CAPCSD web site (www.capcsd.org). We hope that CAPCSD members will carefully read each group's response to the White Paper. Given these responses, the CAPCSD Executive Board has no plans to actively encourage further collaboration between CAA and ACAE. Program accreditation remains an issue of critical importance to CAPCSD members and we hope members appreciate the efforts that have gone into this facilitation.

Sincerely,

Celia R. Hooper, CAPCSD President and CAPCSD Executive Board
August 10, 2007

CAPCSD RESOLUTION 2002-1:

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders charges the Council to “serve as an advocate for the highest standards of academic programming”, and

WHEREAS, advocacy for the highest standards of academic programming includes, per force, advocacy for the highest standards of accreditation of programs of higher education engaged in both speech-language pathology and audiology professional education, and

WHEREAS, the Council of Academic Accreditation, currently the only nationally recognized accreditation body for speech-language pathology and/or audiology academic programs by the Office of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) has the flexibility to insure that the highest quality of professional education standards are maintained for both speech-language pathology and audiology, and

WHEREAS, the evolution of multiple accrediting entities recognized by the national Office of Education is not in the best interest of the students that institutions serve, will dilute the validity of the accreditation process and is unnecessary in protecting the public trust,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That,

- (1) the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders is opposed to the recognition by either the Office of Education or CHEA of any new accreditation entities for speech-language pathology or audiology programs,
- (2) the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders will entreat the Council of Academic Accreditation to insure that all professional organizations with vested interests in the quality of professional education in either speech-language pathology or audiology are provided equitable opportunity for input to the standards review and implementation process, and the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders will exercise whatever influence and leadership opportunities it may have toward the goals articulated in (1) & (2) above.

CAPCSD RESOLUTION 2007-2:

WHEREAS, The Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders Resolution 2002-1, <http://www.capcsd.org/resolutions/April2002Resolutions.pdf> which supports the notion of no new accrediting bodies, yet entreats the Council on Academic Accreditation (CAA), http://www.asha.org/about/credentialing/accreditation/CAA_overview.htm, to ensure that all professional organizations with vested interest have input, and

WHEREAS, today the reality is that there is a second professional organization in the field of audiology, the American Academy of Audiology (AAA), with a proposed second accrediting body, Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAE), <http://www.acaecred.org/> .

WHEREAS, the needs of academic programs are not served by a competition between the two professional organizations, and cooperation, to the extent possible, strengthens the entire discipline,

BE IT RESOLVED that the CAPCSD will continue to encourage, with the use of CAPCSD resources, meetings, and other communications, CAA and ACAE collaboration and work to ultimately establish a single, accrediting body.