

Senate Rules and Elections Committee

Drawing An Accreditation Matter to the Senate Council's Attention

Clarifying What "Accrediting Association" Means in the Senate Rules

Background:

For the case of **undergraduate courses**, the SRs specifically recognize six named 'regional' accrediting associations (SR 4.2.1). Because the names of these six associations have changed over time, the Senate is in process of updating the names of the six 'regional' accrediting associations (([here](#), line 375) by changing SR 4.2.1 at the Senate's 3-20-23 meeting ([here](#))). SR 4.2.1 also prescribes an **exceptions process** for consideration/approval of transfer of undergraduate courses from institutions that are not accredited by one of the six identified accrediting associations ([here](#), line 377).

For the case of **graduate courses**, the SRs only prescribe that the transferred courses must come from an "accredited institution" without identifying the accrediting associations responsible for accrediting those institutions (4.2.2.1.1, [here](#) line 532). For "non-accredited institutions," SR 4.2.2.2.3 prescribes an exceptions process for consideration/approval of transfer of courses ([here](#), line 584; this process and its criteria are different from the exceptions process for the undergraduate course situation).

The SR 9.4 **Glossary** for "Accreditation" ([here](#), pg 211) only describes that accrediting associations must be "recognized" and apparently must be "regional" in scope, but does not provide further information on what means "recognized."

Recommendations:

1. The SREC draws to the Senate Council's attention that the list of six accrediting associations in SR 4.2.1 could be referred to in SR 4.2.1 (and/or in the Glossary SR 9.4) instead as 'the regional accrediting associations recognized by Federal agency X,' so that the SRs do not have to be revised each time the name of any of the six regionals is changed.
2. Relatedly, the SC can also consider whether the six regional associations are the only associations that the Senate Rules ought to "recognize" as accrediting associations.

The SREC requests that if the Senate Council tasks the above to a committee, that there be an invitation to the SREC Chair for an SREC member to attend that committee meeting as a resource on the issue.