



## Policy Changes Adopted on Second Reading

### Title: Peer Reviewers from Outside the Region

*The Board of Trustees adopted these policies on second reading at its meeting on June 13, 2014.*

#### Background

In recent years the Commission has been retaining in its Peer Corps members who have moved out of the region to take another position. The Commission has also been occasionally recruiting potential members who are not employed or do not reside in the region. The current peer review policies contemplate such members of the Corps as occasional and rare. However, the Corps now has increasing numbers of such members and there have been calls, notably from the American Council on Education, for more inter-regional exchange of peer reviewers as a way to promote greater cross-regional understanding. The adopted policy changes provide authority for the presence of such members in the region provided that they remain current in the required training and meet all other eligibility criteria for Peer Corps members.

#### Implementation

These policies are effective immediately. 🌿

Policy PEER.A.10.010	Eligibility Criteria and Selection
	<p>A majority of the members of the Peer Corps will be officially and actively employed on a full-time basis by regionally accredited institutions of higher education as faculty or instructors, administrators or other institutional personnel. Other members of the Corps may include, as appropriate, members of boards of trustees of accredited institutions, legal counsel, state education or system employees, representatives of the business community, public members or other employees of institutions. The Corps may also include individuals with specialized experience in quality improvement or other areas and recent retirees from any of these categories above. Peer reviewers will have appropriate academic degrees from accredited institutions of higher education or the equivalent foreign degrees as well as a minimum of five years of work experience. A majority of the members of the Peer Corps will be located, either through personal residence or employment relationship, in the North Central region. The Commission may include in its Peer Corps members who have an employment relationship with institutions of higher education or other entities not located in the North Central region provided that such members comply with all other eligibility criteria for membership in the Peer Corps.</p> <p>The Commission will assure representation in the Peer Corps on evaluation teams of individuals who are academics, including faculty members, academic deans or others who have a primary responsibility in the teaching and learning process, and administrators who have a primary responsibility of providing oversight in an institution of higher education. The staff of the Commission will be responsible for developing selection criteria for Peer Reviewers and for</p>

	<p>implementing a selection process and will report the Corps' composition to the Board of Trustees.</p> <p><b>Specialized Corps.</b> The staff of the Commission may establish within the Peer Corps specialized groups of peer reviewers who will be assigned to initial status, sanction or show-cause, advisory visit or other evaluations that the Commission determines to require specialized expertise or training or to perform particular functions on the team including chair, recorder, etc.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Policy Number Key</i>  <i>Section PEER: Commitment to Peer Review</i>  <i>Chapter A: Policies to All Peer Reviewers</i>  <i>Part 10: General</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Last Revised: April 2013</i>  <i>First Adopted: August 1983</i>  <i>Revision History: February 2002, October 2003, November 2012, April 2013</i>  <i>Notes: Former policy number 6.1</i></p>
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<b>Policy PEER.A.10.020</b>	<b>Terms of Appointment</b>
	<p>A new Peer Reviewer shall be appointed to a two-year probationary term. Commission staff will review that appointment after completion of the two-year probationary term. The Commission staff will take into consideration the Peer Reviewer's completion of required training as well as performance in institutional evaluations. On the basis of this review, the Commission staff will decide whether to appoint the Peer Reviewer to a four-year term.</p> <p>At the expiration of the four-year term, Commission staff may invite a Peer Reviewer to apply for reappointment for a successive four-year term. The Commission staff will consider the Peer Reviewer's performance in institutional evaluations, including comments from institutions, other Peer Reviewers and staff, and the Peer Reviewer's adherence to the Peer Reviewer Standards of Conduct and participation in required training in determining whether to appoint the Peer Reviewer to a subsequent four-year term.</p> <p>The Commission retains the discretion to evaluate the performance of a Peer Reviewer at any time and end the term of a Peer Reviewer if the Commission determines it to be appropriate. The Commission may also end the term of a Peer Reviewer before the regular completion date if that Peer Reviewer no longer meets the eligibility criteria for the Peer Corps established by the Commission. The Commission will notify the Peer Reviewer of such action.</p> <hr/> <p><i>Policy Number Key</i>  <i>Section PEER: Commitment to Peer Review</i>  <i>Chapter A: Policies Applicable to All Peer Reviewers</i>  <i>Part 10: General</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Last Revised: June 2014</i></p>

	<i>First Adopted: February 1994</i> <i>Revision History: October 2003, November 2012, June 2014</i> <i>Notes: Former policy number 6.2</i>
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