Date: June 10, 2020

To: Commission and Other Interested Parties

From: Ian Walton, Commission Chair and Policy Committee Member
       Gohar Momjian, ACCJC Vice President

Subject: Policy Changes Submitted to the Commission

The Policy Committee oversees the development of new policies and changes to existing policies. Commission procedures generally provide that proposed policy changes and/or new policies be considered by the Commission in a two-meeting process. At the first meeting, new policies/policy changes are discussed, and modifications are made as appropriate (first reading). These policies are then widely circulated to ACCJC’s member institutions and other interested parties for review and comment before presentation at the next scheduled Commission meeting for second reading and adoption. The Policy Committee will forward relevant comments to the Commission for deliberation during the policy’s second-read, and prior to Commission adoption.

When changes are needed in order to align with federal regulations, or for other extenuating circumstances, policy changes can be made by the Commission outside the normal two-meeting process. If these changes are made by Commission action between regularly scheduled meetings, the changes are communicated to the field, including the reason for immediate action by the Commission.

Items for Second Reading

The Policy Committee received no public comments on the following policies, made no changes since the first read in January 2020, and moved to forward them to the Commission for its 2nd read.

i. **New: Policy on Competency Based Education (CBE)** – this is a new policy which provides general information on competency based education programs, federally recognized approaches to CBE, Title IV funding requirements, guidance to institutions seeking to offer CBE, and ACCJC’s responsibility to evaluate an institution’s offering of CBE programs.

ii. **Revision: Policy on Institutional Degrees and Credits** – deleted the section on direct assessment programs to eliminate redundancy since the topic will be included and expanded upon in the proposed new Competency Based Education policy.

iii. **Revision: Policy on Direct Assessment of Learning** – policy is being renamed to Policy on Credit for Prior Learning which more accurately describes the topic of the policy, and language is clarified in the headings to indicate that policy elements concern credit for prior learning.
**Items for First Reading**

The Policy Committee moved to forward the following policies to the Commission for its 1st reading.

i. **Revision: Policy on Institutional Appeals** - The proposed change would conform the appeals policy to forthcoming changes in federal regulations clarifying that an appeal panel may affirm, remand, or amend adverse actions, rather than reverse them.

ii. **Revision: Policy on Public Disclosure and Confidentiality** - The proposed change aligns to forthcoming changes in federal regulations clarifying the timelines for disclosing Commission actions to the institution, public, and to the Secretary of Education.

iii. **Revision: Policy on Accreditation of Baccalaureate Degrees** - The proposed change modifies the policy to recognize ACCJC’s expanded scope of recognition to accredit institutions that are primarily two-year degree granting institutions and which may offer more than one baccalaureate degree.

iv. **Revision: Policy on Substantive Change** - The proposed change aligns to forthcoming changes in federal regulations clarifying substantive changes requiring ACCJC approval or notification, in areas such as change in location, credit awarded, and direct assessment.