

Updates from DEAC

The DEAC is announcing several important updates, including details on the 96th Annual Business Meeting, Board of Director Elections, and Calls for Nomination to Serve on the Board of Directors and Standards Committee:

- [Annual Business Meeting Announced](#)
- [Board of Director Elections to Commence at Annual Business Meeting](#)
- [Resignation from DEAC Board of Directors and Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors](#)
- [Call for Nominations to Serve on the Standards Committee](#)
- [Proposed Changes to Bylaws](#)

More information about each topic can be viewed by clicking the item in the list above.

Annual Business Meeting Announced

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the *Bylaws* of the Distance Education and Training Council (doing business as the Distance Education Accrediting Commission), notice is given to all members that the 96th Annual Business Meeting will take place at 8:00 AM CDT on Monday, April 25, 2022 at the Alexander Hotel in Indianapolis. All DEAC members are encouraged to attend the Annual Business Meeting. Important information and reports will be provided about the organization's activities from the Chair, Executive Director, and Treasurer.

(Please Note: Attendance at the Annual Business Meeting is limited to representatives from institutions currently accredited by DEAC.)

Board of Director Elections to Commence at Annual Business Meeting

The DEAC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the DEAC Board of Directors:

[Traci Lee](#)
*President, Sonoran Desert
Institute*

[Michael Moore](#)
*Chief Academic and
Operating Officer, University
of Arkansas System eVersity*

The Nominating Committee has worked closely with the Board of Directors to review and recommend candidates for the DEAC Board of Directors to serve as an institution representative. Throughout its deliberations, the Nominating Committee took into consideration the appropriate involvement of DEAC's communities of interest as well as the diversity of DEAC's membership and stakeholders. One current institution representative on the Board of Directors, Ms. Traci Lee, President of Sonoran Desert Institute, will complete her first term as of March 31, 2022. The Nominating Committee welcomes her candidacy to serve a second term and welcomes Mr. Moore as a new candidate for the institution representative position on the board of directors.

An electronic ballot will be available to all DEAC members beginning Monday, April 25, 2022 at the close of the 96th Annual Business Meeting, and continuing through 6:00 pm central time on April 26, 2022. Each DEAC-accredited institution represented at the Business Meeting is entitled to one vote. Attending the Annual Business Meeting and participating in the election is a way institution members can participate in the continuity or orderly succession of DEAC's leadership and uphold a practice of good governance. Background information for the Board of Directors candidates is provided [at the end of this release](#).

Resignation from the DEAC Board of Directors

Dr. Cheri St. Arnauld, President of Aspen University, has tendered her letter of resignation from the Board of Directors effective immediately. Dr. St. Arnauld has been a tremendous supporter of the DEAC. We are grateful to Cheri for her many contributions, the commitment of her time, the quality of her work and the thoughtfulness and value she showed toward DEAC and its accredited institutions.

DEAC Announces Call for Nominations to Serve on the Board of Directors

The DEAC Nominating Committee is preparing to receive nominations of potential candidates for election to serve on the DEAC Board of Directors. The committee is seeking candidates to fill one institution member position, formerly held by Dr. St. Arnauld. The open institution member term is through March 31, 2024.

The call for nominations is open now and will continue until May 1, 2022. DEAC invites interested candidates to submit their credentials for consideration using the DEAC's [online submission form](#). More information about candidate qualifications and the significant responsibilities associated with working on the DEAC Board of Directors is available [at the end of this release](#).

DEAC Announces Call for Nominations to Serve on the Standards Committee

The DEAC Nominating Committee is seeking nominations of potential candidates to serve on the DEAC Standards Committee.

The call for nominations is open now and will continue until May 25, 2022. DEAC invites interested candidates to submit their credentials for consideration using the DEAC's [online submission form](#).

The Nominating Committee will review all submissions and forward its recommendations to the DEAC Board of Directors for consideration at the June 2022 Commission Meeting. The Board will announce their appointments to the Standards Committee following the June Commission Meeting.

A description of the DEAC Standards Committee is available [at the end of this release](#).

DEAC Announces Change to Bylaws

The Commission determined that succession planning would be more effective if the election of directors representing the public and the election of officers of the corporation/executive committee took place at the last meeting of the fiscal year as opposed to the first. A minor change to the Bylaws is proposed below with new language indicated by **red, underlined text** and

deletions indicated by ~~striketrough~~. The Chair of the Board of Directors, Skip Capone, will present this revision at the Annual Business meeting. Chairman Capone will then hold a vote with the members in accordance with Article XII: Amendment. [Click here to view a complete copy of the Bylaws.](#)

ARTICLE IV
DIRECTORS

Section 5. Election of Directors. Elections of Directors from Member institutions filling expired terms shall be held at the Annual Business Meeting of the Corporation. Election of Directors representing the public shall be held at the ~~first~~ **last** Directors' meeting of the fiscal year. Institutional Director positions to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of Directors shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Members or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Public Director positions to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of Directors shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Directors whose terms have expired may continue serving until they are either re-elected or until their successors are chosen.

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

Section 2. Election of Officers; Terms of Office. The Chair, Vice Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and other officers, if any are designated, shall serve terms of one (1) year and shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the ~~first~~ **last** regular meeting of the fiscal year. The terms of office shall expire at the next succeeding ~~first~~ **last** meeting of the fiscal year or until an officer's successor has been elected and qualified. The appointment of an officer does not itself create any contract right. Officers shall be eligible for re-election.

Please contact Leah Matthews, DEAC's Executive Director, via email with any questions about these announcements.

ABOUT DEAC

The Distance Education Accrediting Commission is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1926 that operates as a national accreditor of distance education institutions. DEAC's goal is to ensure a high standard of educational quality in the distance education institutions it accredits and a quality education for the more than two million students who annually study at its accredited institutions.

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Traci Lee

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



Traci Lee, President of Sonoran Desert Institute (SDI), has over 30 years of experience in the education sector, across institutions of various structures and sizes. Her experience encompasses virtually all aspects of education, including admissions, financial aid, academics, career services, and management of multi-campus operations with both regional and national accreditation, domestically and internationally.

Prior to her role with SDI, Traci held senior level management positions at Bridgepoint Education, Career Education Corporation, MedVance Institute (now Fortis), University of Advancing Technology, and University of Phoenix (Apollo Group), as well as providing consulting services to a multitude of colleges and universities during her tenure with Campus Management Corporation (CMC) and through her own consulting company, TALee Solutions.

Recognizing the challenges of working in a highly regulated and ever-changing environment, Traci has successfully implemented compliant operational solutions that also achieve institutional goals and provide superior levels of service to students.



Michael Moore

Candidate – Institution Member
DEAC Board of Directors



As the leader of a new online public university, I chose to seek initial accreditation with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) because of its exceptional reputation for overseeing quality, for working with institutions that have varying missions and scopes, and its willingness to accommodate the unique operational structure of institutions.

Accreditation is a voluntary, quality review process that requires evidence of continuous improvement across all aspects of institutional operations, but also recognizes that each institution has unique needs and must remain nimble to compete in a rapidly changing marketplace. As a member of the Commission, I would continue supporting DEAC's focus on excellence while continuing to advocate for institutional flexibility that still demonstrates evidence of quality and

compliance.

I have been fortunate to remain a member of DEAC the entire time the University of Arkansas System eVersity has been accredited, after navigating initial accreditation and renewal of accreditation. I also offer my comprehensive experience working with former regional accrediting organizations (i.e., SACSCOC, HLC) and various programmatic accrediting organizations which provides a perspective on best practices to assist DEAC in remaining competitive with our peers throughout higher education.

It would be an honor to represent prospective and currently-accredited institutions of DEAC on the Commission, and I appreciate your consideration.



DEAC Board of Directors Candidate Qualifications

In identifying qualified candidates, the Nominating Committee seeks to assure that the composition of the Directors adheres to Article IV, Section 3 of the *Bylaws*. At least two (2) Directors must be academics defined by the Corporation as a person who works full time in an educational institution who actively teaches, delivers educational content to learners, or engages in educational research related to the institution's mission. At least two (2) Directors must be administrators defined by the Corporation as a person currently or recently directly engaged in a significant manner in the administration of an institution.

Institution Member Qualifications

Individuals interested in candidacy for an institution representative position on the Board of Directors must minimally:

1. Represent a DEAC-accredited institution in good standing with DEAC as well as with any other accrediting organization or state or federal regulatory agency.
2. Represent a DEAC-accredited institution that completed at least one cycle to renew accreditation.
3. Possess at least five (5) years of experience in a senior leadership role (academic or administrative) at a DEAC-accredited institution.
4. Demonstrate experience as a DEAC evaluator
5. Demonstrate knowledge and application of learning theories, instructional design, educational technology, and outcomes-based assessment in distance education.
6. Possess the capacity to receive, review and evaluate electronically prepared materials prior to and during all meetings and conference calls. The Board of Directors carries out all its functions using electronically prepared materials.
7. Commit to allocating time for preparations, travel requirements, and full engagement needed for board meetings.

Commitment to the DEAC Board of Directors

Serving on the DEAC Board of Directors requires a significant commitment of time to effectively support the DEAC mission and the process of accreditation. The annual schedule of activities includes attendance at two (2) three-day accreditation decision meetings per year, participation in typically four (4) conference call meetings per year, and committee work in one or more of the Directors' policy and governance areas. Meetings require significant advance preparation as each member of the Board contributes to accreditation decision-making and good governance. On average, directors spend 15-20 hours per week for three weeks to fully prepare for an accreditation decision meeting. Committee responsibilities require an additional 8 to 10 hours of preparation for conference call meetings or in-person committee meetings. In addition to making meticulous preparations for meetings and calls, board members must maintain high standards of integrity, honesty, impartiality, and fidelity to the standards of accreditation in order to carry out the board's essential work. All Directors are required to comply with DEAC's conflict of interest policies.

Distance Education Accrediting Commission

Standards Committee Membership and Responsibilities

I. Background

The DEAC Standards Committee was created at the June 2015 Commission meeting following the dissolution of the Business Standards Committee and the Educational Standards and Research Committees.¹ This initiative corresponded with the Commission's ongoing efforts in 2015 to consolidate the education and business standards into one section of standards within the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook* and develop a smaller standards committee structure that could convene on a regular basis.

II. Eligibility and Membership Criteria

Members of the Standards Committee must

1. Represent a DEAC-accredited institution in good standing with DEAC as well as with any other accrediting organization or state or federal regulatory agency.
2. Represent a DEAC-accredited institution that completed at least one cycle to renew accreditation.
3. Possess at least five (5) years of experience in a senior leadership role (academic or administrative) at a DEAC-accredited institution or other institution accredited by a recognized accreditor.
4. Demonstrate comprehensive experience in applying the DEAC accreditation standards as a volunteer evaluator during a DEAC accreditation visit (e.g., Chair, Business Standards Evaluator, Educational Standards Evaluator).
5. Demonstrate active participation in DEAC Annual Conference and Accreditation Workshop events.
6. Possess the capacity to receive, review and evaluate electronically prepared materials.
7. Commit to allocating time for preparations, travel requirements, and full engagement needed for standards committee meetings.
8. Adhere to DEAC's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policies.

The Commission seeks to assure that the Standards Committee represents a rich diversity of educational offerings, culture, skills and experience across DEAC-accredited institutions. Accordingly, every effort is made to secure a diversified representation of DEAC institutions on the committee.

The membership of the Committee ranges between six and twelve appointed members with at least two members representing the Board of Directors, one public and one institutional. Members serve a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment by the Board for a second three-year term.

¹ Minutes from the April 19, 2015 joint meeting of the Business Standards and Research and Educational Standards Subcommittee Meeting.

III. Responsibilities

The Standards Committee is responsible for reviewing and facilitating the development or revisions of DEAC standards, policies and procedures. The Committee provides insights and comments on standards that are forwarded to the Commission for consideration.

Fundamental principles of the committee's work when forming its recommendations to the Commission are to:

1. Uphold the rigor and integrity of DEAC's accreditation procedures and standards.
2. Promote the value and role of the standards.
3. Commit to the best interests of the broader DEAC-accredited community.
4. Adhere to CHEA and USDE recognition requirements.
5. Keep any discussions and proposed revisions held in closed session confidential.
6. Respect all contributions to the process of review.
7. Review responses to DEAC Call for Comments on proposed changes to the *DEAC Accreditation Handbook*.
8. Attend in-person meetings held in conjunction with the DEAC Annual Conference and Accreditation Workshop and virtual meetings held, as needed, throughout the year.