**Appendix 1.4**

**RULES OF THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION**

**Article I. MISSION**

The Commission on Dental Accreditation serves the oral health care needs of the public through the development and administration of standards that foster continuous quality improvement of dental and dental related educational programs.

## Article II. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Section l. LEGISLATIVE AND MANAGEMENT BODY: The legislative and management body of the Commission shall be the Board of Commissioners.

Section 2. COMPOSITION: The Board of Commissioners shall consist of:

Four (4) members shall be selected from nominations open to all trustee districts from the active, life or retired members of this association, no one of whom shall be a faculty member working more than one day per week of a school of dentistry or a member of a state board of dental examiners or jurisdictional dental licensing agency. These members shall be nominated by the Board of Trustees and elected by the American Dental Association House of Delegates.

Four (4) members who are active, life or retired members of the American Dental Association shall be selected by the American Association of Dental Boards from the active membership of that body, no one of whom shall be a member of a faculty of a school of dentistry.

Four (4) members who are active, life or retired members of the American Dental Association shall be selected by the American Dental Education Association from its active membership. These members shall hold positions of professorial rank in dental schools accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and shall not be members of any state board of dental examiners.

The remaining Commissioners shall be selected as follows: one (1) certified dental assistant selected by the American Dental Assistants Association from its active or life membership, one (l) licensed dental hygienist selected by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, one (l) certified dental laboratory technician selected by the National Association of Dental Laboratories, one (l) student selected jointly by the American Student Dental Association and the Council of Students of the American Dental Education Association, one (1) dentist for each ADA recognized dental specialty who is board certified in the respective special area of practice and is selected by the respective specialty sponsoring organization, one (1) dentist representing postdoctoral general dentistry who is jointly appointed by the American Dental Education Association and the American Association of Hospital Dentists and four (4) consumers who are neither dentists nor allied dental personnel nor teaching in a dental or allied dental education institution and who are selected by the Commission, based on establishedand publicizedcriteria. In the event a Commission member sponsoring organization fails to select a Commissioner, it shall be the responsibility of the Commission to select an appropriate representative to serve as a Commissioner. A member of the Standing Committee on the New Dentist (when assigned by the ADA Board of Trustees) and the Director of the Commission shall be ex‑officio members of the Board without the right to vote.

Section 3. TERM OF OFFICE: The term of office of the members of the Board of Commissioners shall be one four (4) year term except that the member jointly selected by the American Dental Education Association and the American Student Dental Association shall serve only one two (2) year term.

Section 4. POWERS:

1. The Board of Commissioners shall be vested with full power to conduct all business of the Commission subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, these *Rules* and the *Constitution and Bylaws* of the American Dental Association.
2. The Board of Commissioners shall have the power to establish rules and regulations not inconsistent with these *Rules* to govern its organization and procedures.

Section 5. DUTIES:

1. The Board of Commissioners shall prepare a budget at its winter meeting each year for carrying on the activities of the Commission for the ensuing fiscal year and shall submit said budget to the Board of Trustees of the American Dental Association for funding in accordance with Chapter XIV of the *Bylaws* of the American Dental Association.
2. The Board of Commissioners shall submit an annual report of the Commission's activities to the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association and interim reports, on request, to the Board of Trustees of the American Dental Association.
3. The Board of Commissioners shall appoint special committees of the Commission for the purpose of performing duties not otherwise assigned by these *Rules.*
4. The Board of Commissioners shall appoint consultants to assist in developing accreditation standards and conducting accreditation evaluations, including on**-**site reviews of predoctoral, advanced dental educational and allied dental educational programs and to assist with other duties of the Commission from time to time as needed.

Section 6. MEETINGS:

1. REGULAR MEETINGS: There shall be two (2) regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners each year.
2. SPECIAL MEETINGS: Special meetings of the Board of Commissioners may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Commission. The Chairman shall call such meetings on request of a majority of the voting members of the Board provided at least ten (10) days notice is given to each member of the Board in advance of the meeting. No business shall be considered except that provided in the call unless by unanimous consent of the members of the Board present and voting.
3. LIMITATION OF ATTENDANCE DURING MEETINGS: In keeping with the confidential nature of the deliberations regarding the accreditation status of individual educational programs, a portion of the meetings of the Commission, and its committees shall be designated as confidential, with attendance limited to members, the American Dental Association Trustee Liaison, selected staff of the Commission and affiliated accreditors. During this part of the meeting, only confidential accreditation actions may be considered.

Section 7. QUORUM: A majority of the voting members of the Board of Commissioners shall constitute a quorum.

## Article III. APPEAL BOARD

Section 1. APPEAL BOARD: The appellate body of the Commission shall be the Appeal Board which shall have the authority to hear and decide appeals filed by predoctoral and advanced dental educational and allied dental educational programs from decisions rendered by the Board of Commissioners of the Commission denying or revoking accreditation.

Section 2. COMPOSITION: The Appeal Board shall consist of four (4) permanent members. The four (4) permanent members of the Appeal Board shall be selected as follows: one (1) selected by the Board of Trustees of the American Dental Association from the active, life or retired membership of the American Dental Association giving special consideration whenever possible to former members of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure, one (l) member selected by the American Association of Dental Boards from the active membership of that body, one (1) member selected by the American Dental Education Association from the active membership of that body and one (l) consumer member who is neither a dentist nor an allied dental personnel nor teaching in a dental or allied dental educational program and who is selected by the Commission, based on established and publicized criteria. In addition, a representative from either an allied or advanced education discipline would be included on the Appeal Board depending upon the type and character of the appeal. Such special members shall be selected by the appropriate allied or specialty organization. Since there is no national organization for general practice residencies and advanced education programs in general dentistry, representatives of these areas shall be selected by the American Dental Education Association and the American Association of Hospital Dentists. One (l) member of the Appeal Board shall be appointed annually by the Chairman of the Commission to serve as the Chairman and shall preside at all meetings of the Appeal Board. If the Chairman is unable to attend any given meeting of the Appeal Board, the other members of the Appeal Board present and voting shall elect by majority vote an acting Chairman for that meeting only. The Director of the Commission shall provide assistance to the Appeal Board.

Section 3. TERM OF OFFICE: The term of office of members on the Appeal Board shall be one four (4) year term.

Section 4. MEETINGS: The Appeal Board shall meet at the call of the Director of the Commission, provided at least ten (10) days notice is given to each member of the Appeal Board in advance of the meeting. Such meetings shall be called by the Director only when an appeal to the appellate body has been duly filed by a predoctoral or advanced dental educational or allied dental educational program.

Section 5. QUORUM: A majority of the voting members of the Appeal Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6. VACANCIES:

1. In the event of a vacancy in the membership of the Appeal Board of the Commission, the Chairman of the Commission shall appoint a member of the same organization, or in the case of a consumer of the general public, possessing the same qualifications as established by these Rules, to fill such vacancy until a successor is selected by the respective representative organization.
2. If the term of the vacated position has less than fifty percent (50%) of a full four-year term remaining at the time the successor member is appointed, the successor member shall be eligible for a new, consecutive four-year term. If fifty percent (50%) of more of the vacated term remains to be served at the time of the appointment, the successor member shall not be eligible for another term.

## Article IV. ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Section l. ACCREDITATION STANDARDS: The Commission, acting through the Board of Commissioners, shall establish and publish specific accreditation standards for the accreditation of predoctoral and advanced dental educational and allied dental educational programs.

Section 2. EVALUATION: Predoctoral and advanced dental educational and allied dental educational programs shall be evaluated for accreditation status by the Board of Commissioners on the basis of the information and data provided on survey forms and secured by the members of, and consultants to, the Board of Commissioners during site evaluations.

If the Board of Commissioners decides to deny, for the first time, accreditation to a new educational program or to withdraw accreditation from an existing program, the Board of Commissioners shall first notify the educational program of its intent to deny or withdraw accreditation. Such notice, together with announcement of the date of the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners, shall be sent to the educational program by certified mail, return receipt requested, within fourteen (14) days following the intent to deny or withdraw decision of the Board of Commissioners. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice, the educational program may, in writing, request a hearing before the Board of Commissioners at its next meeting. Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the request, the Board of Commissioners shall schedule a hearing and notify the educational program of the date, time and place of such hearing. A request for a hearing due to the Board of Commissioner’s decision to deny for the first time, accreditation to a new program, shall automatically stay the decision to deny accreditation. In the event the educational program that has been denied initial accreditation for the first time does not make a timely request for a hearing, the Board of Commissioners’ findings and proposed decision to deny accreditation shall become final.

Section 3. HEARING: Upon completion of an evaluation for accreditation status, the Board of Commissioners shall notify the predoctoral, advanced or allied dental educational program (hereinafter called “educational program”) of its findings and decision regarding the program’s accreditation status. Two types of hearings can be held to review the appropriateness of the decision made by the Commission:

1. CHALLENGE: This type of hearing is available to a program/institution that wishes to challenge the decision of the Commission to change its accreditation status or to a new program that wishes to challenge the decision of the Commission to deny, for the first time, initial accreditation. When an institution/program believes that the Commission has made an error in judgment, a hearing may be requested. The hearing before the Commission would be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Representatives of the institution/program may present arguments that the Commission, based on the information available when the decision was made, made an error in judgment in determining the accreditation status of the program. The educational program need not appear in person or by its representatives at the hearing. Legal counsel may represent the educational program at the hearing. During the hearing, the educational program may offer evidence and argument in writing or orally or both tending to refute or overcome the factual findings of the Board of Commissioners. The Director of the Board of Commissioners must receive any written evidence or argument at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing. No new information regarding correction of the deficiencies may be presented.
2. SUPPLEMENT: An institution/program may request a hearing in order to supplement written information, which has already been submitted to the Commission. A representative of the institution would be permitted to appear in person before the Commission to present this additional information.

When a hearing to provide supplemental information is desired, a written request is to be made to the Director of the Commission thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The chairman and the Director of the Commission determine the disposition of the request and inform the requestor of the date, hour and amount of time which will be allocated for the hearing.

Section 4. APPEAL: In the event the final decision of the Board of Commissioners is a denial or withdrawal of accreditation, the educational program shall be informed of this decision within fourteen (14) days following the Commission meeting. Within fourteen (14) days after receipt of the final decision of the Board of Commissioners, the educational program may appeal the decision of the Board of Commissioners by filing a written appeal with the Director of the Board of Commissioners. The filing of an appeal shall automatically stay the final decision of the Board of Commissioners. The Appeal Board of the Commission shall convene and hold its hearing within sixty (60) days after the appeal is filed. The educational program filing the appeal may be represented by legal counsel and shall be given the opportunity at such hearing to offer evidence and argument in writing or orally or both tending to refute or overcome the findings and decision of the Board of Commissioners. No new information regarding correction of the deficiencies may be presented with the exception of review of new financial information if all of the following conditions are met: (i) The financial information was unavailable to the institution or program until after the decision subject to appeal was made. (ii) The financial information is significant and bears materially on the financial deficiencies identified by the Commission. The criteria of significance and materiality are determined by the Commission. (iii) The only remaining deficiency cited by the Commission in support of a final adverse action decision is the institution’s or program’s failure to meet the Commission’s standard pertaining to finances. An institution or program may seek the review of new financial information described in this section only once and any determination by the Commission made with respect to that review does not provide a basis for an appeal. The educational program need not appear in person or by its representative at the appellate hearing. The Appeal Board may make the following decisions: to affirm, amend, remand, or reverse the adverse actions of the Commission. A decision to affirm, amend or reverse the adverse action is implemented by the Commission. In a decision to remand the adverse action for further consideration, the Appeal Board will identify specific issues that the Commission must address. The Commission must act in a manner consistent with the Appeal Board’s decisions or instructions. The Appeal Board shall advise the appellant educational program of the Appeal Board's decision in writing by registered or certified mail. The decision rendered by the Appeal Board shall be final and binding. In the event the educational program does not file a timely appeal of the Board of Commissioners' findings and decision, the Board of Commissioners' decision shall become final.

Section 5. HEARING AND APPEAL COSTS: If a hearing is held before the Board of Commissioners, the costs of the Commission respecting such hearing shall be borne by the Commission. If an appeal is heard by the Appeal Board, the costs of the Commission respecting such appeal shall be shared equally by the Commission and the appellant educational program filing the appeal except in those instances where equal sharing would cause a financial hardship to the appellant. However, each educational program shall bear the cost of its representatives for any such hearing or appeal.

## Article V. OFFICERS

Section l. OFFICERS: The officers of the Commission shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair and a Director and such other officers as the Board of Commissioners may authorize. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the members of the Commission. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be active, life or retired member of the American Dental Association.

Section 2. DUTIES: The duties of the officers are as follows:

A. CHAIR: The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Commissioners.

B. VICE-CHAIR: If the Chair is unable to attend any given meeting of the Board of Commissioners, the Vice-Chair shall preside at the meeting. If the Vice-chair is unable to attend the meeting, the other members of the Board of Commissioners present and voting shall elect by majority vote an acting chair for the purpose of presiding at that meeting only.

C. DIRECTOR: The Director shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Commissioners, prepare an agenda for each meeting, see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these *Rules* or as required by law, be the custodian of the Commission's records, and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of Director.

## Article VI. MISCELLANEOUS

The rules contained in the current edition of "Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedures" shall govern the deliberations of the Board of Commissioners and Appeal Board in all instances where they are applicable and not in conflict with the *Rules* or the previously established rules and regulations of the Board of Commissioners.

## Article VII. AMENDMENTS

These *Rules* may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Commissioners by majority vote of the members of the Board present and voting subject to the subsequent approval of the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association.

Reaffirmed: 8/12; Revised: 8/10, 10/02, 10/97, 10/87, 11/82

Adopted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, February 1, 2002. Approved by the ADA House of Delegates, October 2002. Revisions adopted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, August 2010. Approved by the ADA House of Delegates, October 2010. Revision of Mission Statement adopted by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, August 2012. Approved by the ADA House of Delegates, October 2012.