

## **REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Background:** The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) charge is to:

- Develop and implement an ongoing strategic planning process;
- Develop and implement a formal program of outcomes assessment tied to strategic planning;
- Use results of the assessment processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the Commission and make recommendations for appropriate changes, including the appropriateness of its structure;
- Monitor USDE, and other quality assurance organizations e.g. Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), American National Standards Institute/International Organization for Standardization (ANSI/ISO), and International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) for trends and changes in parameters of quality assurance; and
- Monitor and make recommendations to the Commission regarding changes that may affect its operations, including expansion of scope and international issues.

**June 26, 2025 Meeting of the QASP:** The QASP conducted a virtual meeting on June 26, 2025. Members of the Standing Committee: Dr. Frank Licari (chair), Ms. Margaret Bowman-Pensel, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Cataldo Leone, Dr. Monica Nenad, and Dr. Nancy Rosenthal were in attendance. Dr. Carolyn Brown and Dr. Joseph Giovannitti were unable to attend.

Commissioners: Dr. Frank Licari, chair and member of committee, and Dr. Cataldo Leone, vice chair and member of committee, *ex officio*, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) were also in attendance. Commission Staff: Dr. Sherin Tookes, senior director, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, senior manager, and Ms. Jessica Lynk, Mr. Shawn Morrison, Dr. Yesenia Ruiz, and Ms. Taylor Weast, managers, CODA attended the meeting.

The QASP initiated its meeting with a review of the charge to the Standing Committee. Discussion was focused on items of interest to CODA related to strategic planning and operational effectiveness. Below is a summary of QASP discussions and recommendations.

### **Consideration of Ongoing Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Activities**

*Review of the Shared Services Agreement Between the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and the American Dental Association (ADA):* The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Shared Services Agreement (**Appendix 1, CODA Members Only**). The Committee noted that CODA's Shared Services Agreement with the ADA was signed in September 2022 for the period of January 1, 2022 through January 1, 2025, and the agreement has expired. The QASP discussed the recent ADA-CODA Relationship Workgroup meeting (**See Report p. 1909, Summer 2025**) related to the Shared Services Agreement, noting that CODA members of the Workgroup proposed removal of the cap on the CODA Administrative Fund and that CODA have authority to direct its meeting format, hire staff, and conduct other operations based on its annual operating budget. Alternately, if there remains a cap on the Administrative Fund, CODA requested the ADA-CODA Relationship Workgroup consider increasing the cap equal to

CODA's annual operating budget. The QASP noted several years in which CODA's year-end revenue had been allocated to the ADA, since CODA is an agency of the ADA, and QASP members believed that CODA should retain its revenue after all annual expenses (direct and indirect) are paid, so that CODA can support its strategic plan and improve CODA operations as needed.

The QASP also noted recent changes that will affect the Commission, including potential increased expenses related to meetings and specifically meeting space, resulting from the ADA's move to a new headquarters building. It was additionally discussed that several upcoming costly initiatives may be necessary to address the recommendations of the 2024 ADA Study of CODA, which CODA is currently reviewing. The QASP continues to express concern that the ADA electronic accreditation tool be funded through development, as well as future enhancements and ongoing maintenance. The QASP concluded its discussion noting that CODA requested a five-year term on the Shared Services Agreement. The ADA-CODA Relationship Workgroup believed that both CODA and the ADA Board of Trustees should further study the proposed revisions and reconvene later to continue negotiations.

**Additional Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Items for Discussion**

*Trends in Dental Education, Practice, Research, and Higher Education:* The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) discussed several higher education current events, which may affect dental education including recent Executive Orders of the President of the United States of America, and the Big Beautiful Bill which could have an impact on dental student loans.

*Update on Strategic Plan Activities:* The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) received a CODA staff update on various activities tied to the strategic plan, including a recent site visitor training program, further inquiry into a new learning management system for CODA, ongoing development of CODA's electronic accreditation tool, and ongoing informational communications with programs, site visitors, and communities of interest.

*Update on United States Department of Education and General Accreditation Matters:* The Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning (QASP) received an update from CODA staff on progress to finalize CODA's petition for re-recognition by the United States Department of Education. The Committee learned the re-recognition petition was due to be submitted no later than July 8, 2025.

**Quality Assurance and Strategic Planning Committee Recommendation:** This report is informational in nature and no action is required.

**Commission Actions:**

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