

4.9 Consortial Relationships And Contractual Agreements

Introduction

A major endeavor of Old Dominion University is to act as a major regional, state, national, and international resource. Because of this role, the University is involved in over 600 consortial and contractual relationships with a variety of agencies and institutions and for a variety of educational services. For the most part, the relationships are of a contractual nature: fundamentally, memoranda of understanding and agreements. These relationships are usually regional in scope, but some are national and international. Some of these are for the purpose of offering credit courses and programs. They are with municipal, state, and federal agencies; with two-year and four-year institutions and universities, both in the United States and abroad; and with the military, hospitals, and industry. They are grouped as Educational Institutions (United States), Educational Institutions (foreign), Hospitals/Health Care Facilities, Military, City Agencies, Federal Agencies, and miscellaneous. The agreements provide for a diversity of services: class work and research, course work, degree programs, research projects, student and faculty exchanges, internships, dual programs, and so forth. Most are for a particular service or for providing courses ranging from a short period of time to several years.

Presentation of Findings

4.9/1 of 3 Sufficient Control of Relationships/ Agreements

Consortial relationships and contractual agreements entered into by Old Dominion are based on the equal stature of all participants. Each arrangement contains sufficient provisions for termination of the agreement by any of the parties. There are no conditions or expectations in any relationship or contract that would put at risk the University's ability to comply with SACS/COC Criteria for educational programming. Old Dominion has partnerships with educational institutions that are regionally accredited or, in the case of international partnerships, accredited by their respective ministries of education.

Arrangements with partners from other sectors, such as business or the military, either implicitly or explicitly require that the institution has attained and will maintain its regional accreditation. From the other partners' perspective, accreditation enhances the value of the relationship and assures the quality of the educational services.

4.9/2 of 3 Evaluation

Typically, agreements and contracts contain provisions for limited terms of effectiveness, for example two to five years. Additional provisions require a review by the parties prior to renewal of the agreement.

4.9/3 of 3 Substantive Change Reporting

Old Dominion is consistent in its reporting of plans and actions for entering into new consortial arrangements or contracts for educational programs. For example, during the last several years the University has submitted a variety of substantive change notifications on agreements with institutions of higher education in India, Sweden, and Malaysia; the U. S. Navy; community colleges; and military bases and other facilities in connection with its TELETECHNET distance-learning network.

Summary

The courses offered and programs and activities developed are primarily educational and consistent with the purposes and goals of the institution. Moreover, the quality of the courses and programs offered is under the scrutiny of the usual institutional procedures

and review mechanisms. The credit courses, programs, and other academic activities are under the control of the University. In a few areas, deficiencies may exist. These arise not from a lack of concern, but apparently from the belief that if a particular institution or agency is accredited or certified all activities undertaken will be proper. Thus, in some cases provisions for the maintenance of standards are implied rather than expressed, and standards are assumed rather than specifically stated.

Conclusions

In its consortial and contractual relationships, Old Dominion is in compliance with the *Criteria for Accreditation*.

Recommendations

None.

Suggestion

4.9/1 of 3. A member institution which enters into such consortial relationships or contractual agreements must have sufficient control of relationships / agreements so as to maintain compliance with the Criteria when offering educational programs through such arrangements.

The University should establish a review process for all agreements and contracts and a checklist of basic provisions that must be present before they are executed, for (a) monitoring and enhancing standards of quality; (b) reviewing and monitoring the activity or project to determine the quality of its performance; (c) determining the accreditation of participating agencies and institutions, if appropriate; (d) reviewing faculty qualifications and the quality of the courses; (e) assessing the financial costs and benefits; and (f) obtaining review and approval by the University's General Counsel.

Must Statement Compliance Table
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Must Statement	Compliance Statement	Supporting Documentation <u>Exhibit Numbering Key:</u> Criteria#/MustStatement#:Exhibit
4.9/1 of 3. A member institution which enters into such consortial relationships or contractual agreements must have sufficient control of relationships/agreements so as to maintain compliance with the <i>Criteria</i> when offering educational programs through such arrangements.	Compliance	4.9/1-3:01 Virginia Tidewater Consortium Exchange Program, Catalog, p. 37 4.9/1-3:02 Virginia Consortium for Engineering and Science Universities (VCES), Catalog, p. 162 4.9/1-3:03 Contract Management [at ODU] (a document prepared by the Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance, September, 2001)
4.9/2 of 3. All consortia and contracts must be evaluated regularly.	Compliance	
4.9/3 of 3. If an institution plans to participate in consortial relationships or enter into contractual agreements for educational programs, it must follow reporting policies and procedures related to substantive change.	Compliance	4.9/1-3:04 Authority for Signing Contracts (ODU Policy # 1500) 4.9/1-3:05 Guideline format for Old Dominion University Clinical Affiliation Agreements 4.9/1-3:06 Example Substantive Change Notification (Athens GA TELETECHNET site, September 2001) 4.9/1-3:07 Example International Agreement and notification letter to SACS/COC (Yeungnam University, Republic of Korea, September 2001)