

# BYLAWS

## ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR PROGRAMS IN HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION



**ACPHA**  
Accreditation Commission  
for Programs in Hospitality Administration

A Maryland Non-Stock Corporation

Initial Approval: August, 2002

Revised: 1/04, 5/14, 7/18

**A. PREAMBLE** - By-Laws are essential to enable an organization to begin its work; to provide guidelines for the operation of an organization; to amend procedures as needed in the life of an organization.

**B. NAME AND DURATION** - The name of the organization shall be the Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration (ACPHA) herein referred to as the Commission. The period of duration for the Commission is perpetual.

**C. MISSION STATEMENT** - The mission of the Commission is the quality assessment and the quality enhancement of Hospitality Management Education programs at the Associate and Bachelor Degree level.

**D. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION**

1. Composition - The Commission membership is composed of representatives from Hospitality education, the hospitality industry, its community of interests and public-at-large. The Commission shall be composed of eleven (11) voting members as follows:

- a. Hospitality Administration Educators: Eight (8) members from accredited programs representing two and four year programs.
- b. Hospitality and Related Industries Representatives: Two (2) industry representatives from the hospitality and/or related industries.
- c. Public-at-Large Representative: One (1) individual from the public sector, representing the consumer interests of hospitality administration programs at the national and international levels.

2. Terms of Office; Nominating and Vacancy Procedures

- a. All seats on the Commission are three (3) year terms. No member of the Commission may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms with the exception of the Immediate Past Chairperson whom may complete his/her two-year commitment in this role should this exceed the two consecutive term maximum. After completing two (2) consecutive terms, a Commissioner may return for another three (3) year term after he/she has been off the Commission for one (1) year.
- b. The Commission Chairperson shall establish a Nominating Committee composed of chairs of the Commission's committees.
- c. The Commission will solicit nominees from ACPHA accredited programs. Nominees will submit a CV and letter of interest for review by the Nominating Committee.
- d. The Nominating Committee will present its slate and the full Commission will vote at the summer ACPHA meeting.

- e. The names of the elected Commissioners will be electronically published and made available to the ACPHA member programs.
  - f. In the case a Commissioner is unable to fulfill his/her term, the Commission Chairperson will propose a qualified appointee to the Commission for approval. The appointee shall complete the term of the vacated member and then will submit a CV and letter of intent for review by the Nominating Committee if he or she wishes to seek additional terms on the Commission. In the case a Commissioner moves from his/her constituency base representation; the member shall relinquish his/her seat on the Commission.
  - g. A Commissioner may be removed from the Commission by a vote and/or petition signed by three-fourths (3/4) of the Commission membership.
3. Officers, Elections and Vacancies
- a. The Commission will elect a Chairperson to serve a two-year term. Upon completion of the Chairperson's term, he/she will then serve a two-year term as Immediate Past Chairperson.
  - b. The names of the elected Commission officers will be electronically published and made available to the ACPHA member programs.
  - c. An officer of the Commission may be removed from office/Commission by a vote and/or petition signed by three-fourths (3/4) of the Commission membership.
  - d. In the case where an officer of the Commission is unable to fulfill his/her term, the Commission Chairperson will propose a qualified appointee to the Commission for approval. The appointee shall complete the term of the vacated member.
  - e. In the case where the Commission Chairperson is no longer able to serve, the chair of the Immediate Past Chair will become the interim Chairperson until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### **E. COMMISSION FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Develop and enhance standards and guidelines for evaluating program effectiveness in the field of hospitality administration; to foster excellence in programs; and to publish those standards and guidelines for evaluating program effectiveness.
2. Ensure the effectiveness of and objectivity in the accreditation process.
3. Ensure the accreditation process recognizes the diversity of hospitality administration education and provides assurance that accredited programs are of acceptable quality.

4. Provide counsel and assistance to established and developing hospitality administration programs and to disseminate information to programs that will stimulate overall improvement in hospitality administration education.
5. Develop, maintain, revise and distribute standards, guidelines, and appropriate manuals for programmatic self-study.
6. Develop and implement appropriate training of all evaluators, including site visit teams.
7. Review all materials relevant to the accreditation process and to be responsible for a final decision on accreditation of a hospitality administration program.
8. Receive, review and arbitrate written appeals from any program claiming to be aggrieved by a negative action of the Commission.
9. Function at the Associate and/or a Bachelor's degree level as the policy-making body in all matters of accreditation with hospitality administration education programs.

#### **F. MEETINGS, ATTENDANCE, QUORUM, AND VOTING RIGHTS**

1. The Commission will hold a minimum of two (2) meetings per year for the purpose of general Commission business.
  - a. Electronically-distributed notices of all meetings shall be made available to all ACPHA-accredited programs.
2. Only elected members of the Commission may vote on matters before the Commission; no votes may be accepted by proxy.
  - a. Each Commissioner may have only one (1) vote.
  - b. A quorum requires the presence of a minimum of six (6) voting members. Three-quarters (3/4) affirmative vote is needed to act on specific programmatic accreditation, including accreditation denial, probation, or withdrawal.
3. A Commissioner will forfeit his/her seat on the Commission if the member is absent from two (2) meetings during his/her term.
4. All meetings of the Commission are open to the public, except when the Commission convenes Executive Session to consider accreditation action (accreditation, denial, deferral, probation or withdrawal) on a specific program's file.
  - a. A Commissioner will recuse himself/herself in the case of perceived conflict of interest. The Commissioner should notify the Chair so that a quorum may be ensured.

- b. A seated Commissioner may serve in a pre-visit consulting role or as a member of a visiting team, but must recuse himself/herself during the Commission review and action.

## **G. COMMITTEES**

1. The Commission may establish, as needed, one or more of the following committees and elect a chair:
  - a. Nomination Committee
  - b. Standards Committee
  - c. Finance/Budget Committee
  - d. Education Committee

## **H. DUES, FEES, AND FUNDS**

1. The Commission is authorized to charge a program applying for accreditation appropriate fees as well as an annual fee. Expenses of members of the visitation team will be charged to the programs applying for accreditation. Until all financial obligations have been paid, accreditation will not be finalized.

## **I. INDEMNIFICATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

1. The ACPHA Corporation will indemnify all members of the Commission in accordance with current Commission By-Laws and practices against any and all expenses as a result of pending or completed action in connection with official activities of the Commission.

## **J. AMMENDENTS**

1. These By-Laws of the Commission may be amended by a three-quarters (3/4) affirmative vote of a quorum either in person or via electronic poll. Any Commissioner may propose in writing an amendment to the By-Laws. Notice of any such amendment must be presented to the membership of the Commission not less than 15 days prior to any such meeting.