

COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS

OPEN SESSION AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: October 2015 – O-401

2014-2015 Goals Educational Standards Subcommittee *Updated 09/30/2015*

1. Consider results of pilot program regarding calculation of cumulative bar examination pass rates by California accredited law schools.

The Committee received a report on the pilot program, along with a compilation of reported cumulative pass rates from each California-accredited law school, during its October meeting.

October 2014

2. Consider public comment in response to proposed amendments to Guideline 12.1 to clarify methodology for calculating cumulative bar examination pass rates by California accredited law schools and adoption of final version.

The Committee received no public comments regarding the proposed amendments to Guideline 12.1; in the absence of any such comment, the Committee adopted the amendments, effective January 31, 2015, during its January meeting.

January 2015

3. Consider public comment in response to proposed amendments to the *Accreditation Rules and Guidelines for Accredited Law Schools* regarding branch campuses and adoption of final version for submission to the Board of Trustees for approval.

At its meeting in January, the Committee received and considered one public comment regarding the proposed adoption of proposed, new Rules and associated Guidelines; the Committee then adopted, in principal, the proposed Rules (pending approval by the Board of Trustees) and adopted the proposed Guidelines pending the approval of the Board of Trustees. The proposed new Rules and associated Guidelines were approved by the Board of Trustees on March 13, 2015 and each became effective as of that date.

January 2015

4. Consider public comment in response to proposed amendments to the statute, California Rules of Court, the *Unaccredited Law School Rules, Guidelines for Unaccredited Law Rules*, and the *Accredited Law School Rules and Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*, which will require unaccredited law schools to

eventually become accredited and permit distance-learning law schools to become accredited, in addition to other changes, and adoption of final versions for submission to the Board of Trustees for approval.

At its meeting in January, the Committee received and considered seven public comments regarding the proposed statutory amendments and proposed amendments to the Unaccredited Law School Rules, Guidelines for Unaccredited Law Rules, and the Accredited Law School Rules and Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules; based upon said consideration, the Committee approved in principal all such statutory amendments and proposed Rule and Guideline amendments, and that all would be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for its consideration and approval. During its meeting in March, the Board of Trustees approved all such recommended proposed statutory amendments and proposed amendments to the relevant Rules and Guidelines.

January 2015

5. Consider proposed amendments to Guideline 8.4 (Library Content) of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*, including recommendations from the Committee's Advisory Committee on California Accredited Law School Rules.

At its April meeting, the Committee considered and approved, in principal, the proposed amendments to Guideline 8.4 and submitted each to a period of public comment. Following its receipt of no public comment, the Committee adopted the proposed amendments to Guideline 8.4 at its meeting in June.

April 2015/June 2015

6. Consider proposed amendments to Guideline 7.11 (Distance-Education Credit) of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules*, including recommendations from the Committee's Advisory Committee on California Accredited Law School Rules.

At its meeting in June, the Committee considered a proposed amendment to Guideline 7.11, after receiving recommendations from the Committee's Advisory Committee on California Accredited Law School Rules, and approved it in principal subject to a period of public comment. Following receipt of one public comment, the Committee adopted said amendment at its meeting in August.

June 2015/August 2015

7. Consider amendments to Law School Rules re additional disclosures.

At its meeting in August, the Committee considered a proposed amendment to Rule 4.241(A) of the Unaccredited Law School Rules which would require unaccredited law schools to provide attrition rates in their student disclosure statements; the Committee approved this proposed amendment in principle subject to the consideration of the Board of Trustees and, thereafter, a period of public comment.

August 2015

8. Consider the Committee's continuing role, pursuant to Guideline 13.1 of the *Guidelines for Accredited Law School Rules* and Guideline 1.2 or the *Guidelines for Implementation of Chapter 2, Rule 4.30 of the Admission Rules*, of continuing to grant either its "acquiescence" to the issuance of a LL.M. degrees offered by ABA-approved and California Accredited Law Schools to Foreign Educated Applicants or its permission for such Applicants to complete twenty (20) semester or equivalent units in specified legal education at an ABA-approved or California-accredited law school, to be qualified to take the California Bar Examination.

To date, no action was taken by the Committee on this goal.

9. Consider petitions and request for prior approval received from both accredited and registered, unaccredited law schools seeking individual waivers of the Committee's policies, procedures, Rules and Guidelines.

Throughout the past year, the Committee has received and taken the appropriate action on several such requests for waivers and requests for approval of major changes submitted by both California-accredited and registered, unaccredited law schools.

Monthly

10. Consider and take action regarding applications for provisional accreditation for existing registered law schools, applications for the registration of new law schools, the provisional approval of branch campuses and new law degree programs and submitted requests for prior approval of major changes. Participate in law school visitations as scheduled and needed. Consider reports of periodic inspections of accredited and registered unaccredited law schools and inspections performed in response to the issuance of Notices of Noncompliance; generally monitor the compliant operation of both California-accredited and registered law schools and the overall educational requirements for applicants seeking to qualify to take and pass the California Bar Examination.

Throughout the past year, the Committee has considered and taken the appropriate action, on multiple occasions, on each type of matter described above.

Ongoing