

November 15, 2017

Boston Happenings 2017

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- Review of Standards
- Committees
 - Program
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 - Curriculum
 - Constitution and By-Laws
- Executive Committee
- Elections
- Strategic Plan
- NFDA Convention

Late October was a busy time for ABFSE. Several committees met in Boston, there was a special session to initiate a new Strategic Plan and ABFSE members and staff attended the NFDA Convention.

Committee on Accreditation (COA) met for two days. The summary of accreditation activity is posted on the ABFSE website. <http://www.abfse.org/html/committee-actions.html> Three programs were reviewed for re-accreditation (Dallas, San Antonio and Amarillo), two focus visits for distance learning were evaluated (John A. Gupton and Mid-America) and three re-accreditation follow-up reports were reviewed (Northampton, Kansas City Kansas and Nassau). Two programs did not renew accreditation for 2017-18 and completed teach-out of existing students before the start of the fall '17 academic year (Southeast Kentucky and Mississippi Gulf Coast). Bishop State did not accept new students for the fall 2017 semester and plans to complete teach-out during the '17-'18 academic year.

At the request of the COA Liaison Committee, the COA revised the biennial inspection requirement and voted to extend the inspection to every 3 years. i.e. Off-campus instructional sites where students receive college credit - Standard 6.9.8.

One new question will be added to the 2017 Annual Report. Programs in multi-purpose institutions will be required to identify the 'department' in which funeral service/mortuary science operates. (in order to comply with USDE expectations)

COA dedicated significant time to **Review of Standards**. Responses to the Review of Standards Survey are available on the ABFSE website. (<http://www.abfse.org/docs/ReviewSummary17.pdf>) COA will meet in February to formulate language for recommended updates of the standards to be presented for discussion by the full ABFSE in April. See a summary of other COA discussions at the end of this report.

Program Committee presented ideas for professional development at the April 2018 Annual Conference in Anaheim and they recommended sites for the Annual Conference for the next 5 years:

New Orleans, Dallas, Atlanta (and NFDMA), Las Vegas (and ICCFA), Chicago.

Delgado Community College offered to serve as host in New Orleans for 2019. The committee recommends alternating sites from east-west and central US, plus 'tethering' with NFDMA House of Representatives spring meeting one year and with ICCFA when they meet in Las Vegas.

The Annual Conference will include sessions on JURA – self study workshop, the ABFSE Strategic Plan and a progress report on the Review of Standards.

Scholarship Committee awarded 3 scholarships for a total of \$6500. The recipients, from Pittsburgh Institute, Ivy Tech Central and Carl Sandburg, are asked to supply a photo so they may be recognized on the ABFSE website. ABFSE scholarship program has three new contributors in 2017. All scholarship supporters are identified on the ABFSE website, so be sure to thank them when the opportunity arises. <http://www.abfse.org/index.html>

Curriculum Committee will present for approval the three outlines reviewed during the summer 2017 workshop – Business Law, Chemistry and Funeral Merchandising. An announcement about the outlines for review in summer 2018 will be released soon. We will investigate linking the summer 2018 workshop with the NFDMA Convention (in Kissimmee, FL) as we did in 2017. ABFSE received a commitment of financial support (\$4000) from ICFSEB for the summer 2018 curriculum workshop.

Executive Committee approved policies for investment/banking, use of ABFSE logo, acknowledgement of illness and death and fees for use of curriculum outlines & glossaries. These will be added to the ABFSE Manual.

Executive Committee also reviewed a proposal to revamp COA term rotation to avoid multiple, single year turnover and so that terms “shall be staggered in such a way as to provide for orderly transition” as required by the By-Laws (Article VI, page 2-7).

There are 4 vacancies to be filled on the COA in April 2018 which represents 33% turnover in a single year. **College and University Council (CUC)** is expected to submit candidate names to COA for the vacancies. A new COA educator member application is attached which includes description of qualifications and explanation of the vacancies. ABFSE will be asked to vote on the proposal mentioned above, but will seek candidate names on the assumption that the new term rotation will be approved.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee was asked to review the composition of all ABFSE committees to ensure that appropriate member representation is maintained.

Election of ABFSE officers occurs in 2018, so CUC will also need a nominations committee to present a slate of officers. See the ABFSE Manual (By-Laws, Article V, page 2-5) to review qualifications and make known your interest to serve ABFSE.

On Sunday, October 29 a group of 27 volunteers participated in the ABFSE **Strategic Planning** session. Francisco Solis, Dean of Performance Excellence at San Antonio College and ABFSE past President, served as facilitator for the session which all agreed was very productive. Participants developed an updated Mission Statement for ABFSE and provided points for the new Strategic Plan. An ad hoc committee will fine tune the recommendations into a new Strategic Plan to be distributed for comment in early spring and then considered for approval at the Annual Conference in April.

Last on the agenda was the **NFDA Convention** where 6 ABFSE programs, UMSEA and NACMS were exhibitors. ABFSE officers and members participated in continuing ed sessions, visited the exhibits and networked with exhibitors and colleagues to promote the ABFSE scholarship and exhibitor opportunities at our Annual Conference.

