

DEFERRED TO ACAPT BOARD FOR REVIEW OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: AC-3-14: Worthingham Report Motion Proposed by University of Southern California – James Gordon

That the following be adopted:

ACAPT shall undertake, in close collaboration with APTA and CAPTE, an objective and comprehensive study of the current state of academic physical therapy and make recommendations as to the appropriate standards that all programs should meet to ensure that physical therapy continues to advance as a profession in the 21st century.

This study will include an explicit comparison with the academic enterprises of our peer doctoring professions, including medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy.

The study shall be conducted by an outside group and directed by a committee of distinguished educators and leaders from the health professions. The study will be funded by ACAPT. Further assistance will be requested from the APTA Board of Directors.

The proposed study shall be designed to complement the ACAPT Benchmarking Project and the National Study of Excellence in Physical Therapist Education (PTE-21) currently being conducted with funding from ACAPT and APTA. Whereas the benchmarking effort is modeling its survey design on current evidence in the education literature and the PTE-21 study examines a small number of programs intensively, the proposed study will examine all currently accredited DPT programs and make recommendations to ensure that academic physical therapy as a whole achieves excellence.

The study shall be named the Worthingham Report, in honor of Catherine Worthingham who worked tirelessly to improve physical therapy education and who published the first comprehensive studies of academic physical therapy in the United States.

Support Statement:

- The profession of physical therapy is facing a crisis in education manifested by the proliferation of new DPT programs;
- The research mission of academic physical therapy is seriously jeopardized because relatively few DPT programs have the motivation to produce research and scholarship and the capability to do so;
- There are looming shortages of program leaders, qualified faculty, and clinical sites necessary to ensure a high quality of academic teaching, clinical education, and translational research in physical therapy;
- More evidence is needed regarding the appropriate standards and resources required to carry out high- quality DPT education, especially with respect to the minimum number of program faculty, the breadth of faculty expertise, and the appropriate academic qualifications of faculty members.

RELATIONSHIP TO PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF ACAPT:

The primary mission of ACAPT is to promote excellence in academic physical therapy. The purpose of the proposed Report is to promote excellence in academic physical therapy.

RELEVANT POSITION/STANDARD/GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE:

This motion requests action to expand the intent of RC 12-14 Promoting Excellence in Physical Therapist Professional Education that was recently passed in the 2014 APTA HOD and supported by ACAPT and its Board of Directors.