



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

MAY 14 2004

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Ms. Concepcion V. Pijano
Executive Director
Philippine Accrediting Association
of Schools, Colleges and Universities
Unit 107 - The Tower at Emerald Square
J.P. Rizal corner P. Tuazon Streets
Quezon City
The Philippines

Dear Ms. Pijano:

On March 8-9, 2004, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review materials from 13 countries, including the information submitted by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) regarding the current standards and processes for the evaluation and accreditation of medical schools in the Philippines. The NCFMEA had requested information on the current Philippine accreditation system because subsequent to the NCFMEA's determination of comparability in March 1999, the responsibility for accreditation of medical schools in the Philippines had shifted from the Medical Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) to PAASCU. Whenever the responsibility for accrediting medical schools changes from one entity to another within a country, the NCFMEA must ensure that medical school accreditation standards that are comparable to those applied in the United States (U.S.) remain in effect.

The NCFMEA members wish to thank Dr. Remigia Nathanielsz and you for participating in the March 2004 meeting. Your testimony was most helpful to the members in clarifying their understanding of your country's accreditation system. At the meeting the NCFMEA, based on the information and materials submitted and the testimony presented, determined that the standards and processes used by the PAASCU to accredit medical schools in the Philippines are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the U.S. This determination of comparability by the NCFMEA has a maximum duration of six years from the date of this letter, unless the Committee withdraws, extends or renews its determination prior to that date. Before expiration of the six-year period, the NCFMEA will seek to confirm that your standards and processes for accrediting medical schools in the Philippines are still comparable to the accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the U.S. If so, its previous determination of comparability will be extended for another period.

As a result of the determination of comparability by the NCFMEA, any medical school in the Philippines that is accredited by PAASCU may apply to the U.S. Department of Education to participate in the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program. If a medical school's application is approved, students enrolled in the school who are either U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may receive FFEL loans to finance their medical education if they meet all other eligibility requirements. Medical schools that wish to participate in the FFEL program may obtain the proper application forms from the Foreign Schools Team by calling (202) 377-3168 or by writing to the following address:

Foreign Schools Team
FSA/Schools Channel/CMO
U.S. Department of Education
Room 73C3
830 First St., N.E.
Washington, DC 20202-5340
USA

Please note that it is not necessary for any medical schools in the Philippines that currently participate in the FFEL program to contact the Foreign Schools Team at this time; the status of those participating schools remains unchanged by the NCFMEA's decision of continued comparability.

At the March meeting, the NCFMEA also requested that the Philippines provide a report on its accreditation activities involving its medical schools for review at the September 2005 meeting. Please see the enclosure for details on the information to be provided in the report. The members also reaffirmed their acceptance of PAASCU's invitation to have a member of the NCFMEA observe an accreditation review of a Philippine medical school. In the near future, Ms. Bonnie LeBold, the Executive Director of the NCFMEA, will contact you to finalize arrangements for that site review observation, which is tentatively scheduled for August or September 2004.

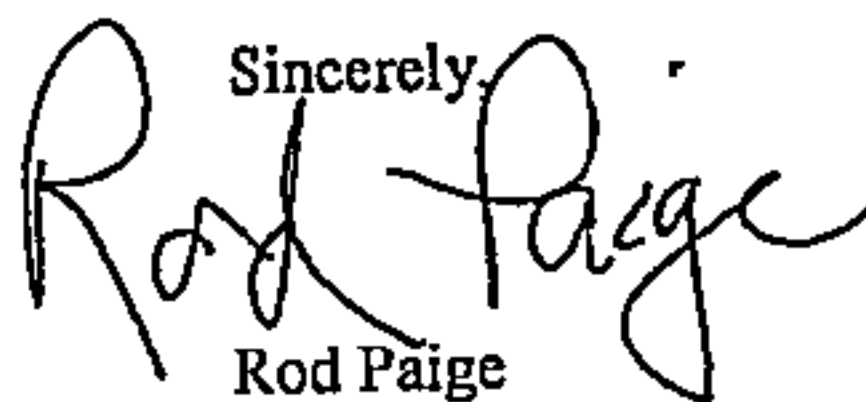
We would appreciate receiving the requested report by June 1, 2005, so we have sufficient time to review the information prior to the September 2005 NCFMEA meeting. Please send the information to the U.S. Department of Education at the address below.

Mr. John Barth
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W. – Room 7105
Washington, DC 20006-8509
USA

If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Mr. Barth at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or john.barth@ed.gov (e-mail).

In the spring of 2005, Ms. LeBold will contact you to provide details regarding the September 2005 NCFMEA meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact her at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or bonnie.lebold@ed.gov (e-mail).

Thank you very much for providing information regarding your country's accreditation of its medical schools. The NCFMEA members and the U.S. Department of Education appreciate your ongoing assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rod Paige

Enclosure

cc: Brother Rolando Dizon, FSC
Chairman
Commission on Higher Education

**Report Requested from the Philippines and the
Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU)
by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education
and Accreditation (NCFMEA)**

Due Date: June 1, 2005

Submit to: John Barth
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W. – Room 7105
Washington, DC 20006-8509
USA

Phone: (202) 219-7011
Fax: (202) 219-7005
E-mail: john.barth@ed.gov

Content: The NCFMEA is requesting information (and any applicable supporting documents) regarding the following:

- ***Current status of medical schools:*** A list of the medical schools currently operating in the Philippines, indicating whether each school has gone through the accreditation process and what the outcome of that accreditation process has been (whether the school is fully accredited or provisionally accredited, whether accreditation has been terminated, etc.).
- ***Overview of accreditation activities:*** A summary of key activities involving medical schools in the Philippines during 2004 and 2005, such as accreditation reviews conducted, meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, and accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- ***Laws and regulations:*** Any changes in your country's laws or regulations during 2004 and 2005 affecting the accreditation of medical school(s) in the Philippines.
- ***Standards:*** An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2004 and 2005 in the accreditation standards that PAASCU uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools, and, if so, what those changes were in the areas listed below:
 - administration,
 - faculty,
 - curriculum,
 - admissions procedures,
 - student services,
 - methods for evaluating student achievement, and
 - facilities.

- ***Processes and procedures:*** An indication as to whether there have been any changes during 2004 and 2005 in the accreditation processes or procedures used by PAASCU for the following:
 - conducting reviews of medical school campuses and clinical clerkship sites,
 - selecting and training individuals who conduct site evaluations or who make accreditation decisions,
 - periodically reevaluating and regularly monitoring medical schools,
 - reviewing substantive changes reported by medical schools,
 - ensuring PAASCU has effective controls against the conflicts of interest and the inconsistent application of accreditation standards, and
 - ensuring that accreditation decisions are based, in part, on the evaluation of student performance after graduation from medical school.

- ***Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:*** A listing of upcoming accreditation meetings and on-site visits to medical schools and clinical clerkship sites planned for 2005 and 2006.

U.S. Department of Education



Staff Analysis

The Philippines

**For the March 8-9, 2004 Meeting
of the
National Committee on Foreign Medical
Education and Accreditation**

