



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

NOV 16 2004

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Ing. Josef Benes
Director, Higher Education Department
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Karmelitska 7
118 12 Prague 1
Czech Republic

Dear Ing. Josef Benes:

On September 16-17, 2004, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C. to review, among other items, the information and documents submitted by the Czech Republic describing the current accreditation standards and processes used by its Accreditation Commission to evaluate and accredit medical schools in your country. At the meeting, Ms. Monika Krizek Griffis and Professor Pravoslav Stransky provided additional information on behalf of the Czech Republic. Their testimony was most helpful, and the NCFMEA members wish to thank them for their participation in the meeting.

After considering the materials submitted and the testimony presented, the NCFMEA determined that the current standards and processes used by the Czech Republic to accredit its medical schools are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States (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 Czech Republic are still comparable to the accreditation standards applied to medical schools in the United States. If so, its previous determination of comparability will be extended for another period.

As a result of the determination of continued comparability by the NCFMEA, any medical school in the Czech Republic that is accredited by the Accreditation Commission 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, any of the school's enrolled students 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 Czech Republic 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 September NCFMEA meeting, the Committee also requested that the Czech Republic provide a report on its accreditation activities involving its medical schools for review at the September 2006 NCFMEA meeting. Please see the enclosure for details on the information to be provided in the report.

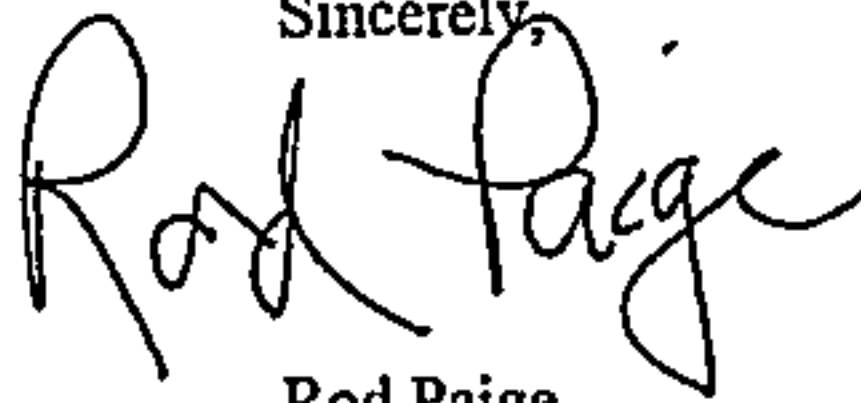
We would appreciate receiving the requested report by June 15, 2006, so we have sufficient time to review the information prior to the September 2006 NCFMEA meeting. If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please feel free to contact Mr. John Barth, Director, Accreditation and State Liaison Staff, at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or john.barth@ed.gov (e-mail).

At the September meeting, the NCFMEA also amended its guidelines for evaluating the comparability of a foreign country's accreditation standards and processes to those used in the United States. Enclosed, for your reference, is a copy of the Committee's revised guidelines.

The Executive Director of the NCFMEA will contact you in the spring of 2006 to provide information regarding the September 2006 NCFMEA meeting. In the interim, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Director's office at (202) 219-7009 (telephone) or (202) 219-7008 (fax).

I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for accreditation of medical schools. The NCFMEA members and I very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rod Paige". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rod Paige

Enclosures:

Report Request
NCFMEA Guidelines

cc: Mr. Jakub Skalnik
Counselor for Culture, Science and Education
Embassy of the Czech Republic

Professor Pravoslav Stransky
Chairman, Permanent Working Group
on Medicine and Health
Czech Republic Accreditation Commission

Ms. Monika Krizek Griffis, Esq.
Consultant to Thomas Gral Foundation for Human Tolerance
at Charles University, Czech Republic

**Report Requested from the Czech Republic and the
Czech Republic Accreditation Commission
by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education
and Accreditation (NCFMEA)**

Due Date: June 15, 2006

Submit to: 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
U.S.A.

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 Czech Republic, 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 Czech Republic that have occurred since September 2004, 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 since September 2004 affecting the accreditation of medical school(s) in the Czech Republic.
- ***Standards:*** An indication as to whether there have been any changes since September 2004 in the accreditation standards that the Accreditation Commission 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 since September 2004 in the accreditation processes or procedures used by the Accreditation Commission 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 the Accreditation Commission 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 the period covering June 2006 through December 2007.