

**Section Title:** Academic Policies

**Policy Title:** Centers of Excellence

**Policy Number:** A2.2

2.2.10 **Categories of Centers.** There are three categories of Centers: Accomplished Centers, other existing Centers, and new Centers. The classification of Centers will be determined by the Commission upon the recommendations of the governing boards and the advice of the Commission Staff.

2.2.10A **Eligibility.** An existing Center is eligible for designation as an Accomplished Center if it has been in operation at least three full years and if it received the best possible evaluation in its most recent external review, as determined by the Commission Staff.

2.2.10B **Selection.** An eligible Center will be designated as an Accomplished Center by the Commission upon the recommendation of the appropriate governing board and the advice of the Commission staff. The criteria for selection are:

1. Evidence of substantial accomplishment, including marked improvement in comparative standing,
2. A plan for the next 5 years based on the approved mission of the Center and focusing primarily on research,
3. Confirmation that any substantial obstacles for long-term success have been removed, and
4. Periodic reviews, including five-year intensive reviews, of the accomplished centers.

2.2.20 **Funding.** The Commission will adhere to the following principles in recommending funding for the three categories of Centers:

2.2.20A **Funding Increases.** The Commission will recommend that the aggregate funding for Accomplished Centers for continuing expenses be amounts that are reasonable and can be justified. Accomplished Centers will have first call on funds made available from an aggregate reduction in funding for other Centers.

2.2.20B **Funding Decreases.** The continuing expenses for Accomplished Centers will not be recommended for decrease unless total Centers funding is reduced in aggregate and, simultaneously, every non-Accomplished Center is either eliminated or substantially reduced in funding through elimination of all activities not deemed to be excellent.

2.2.20C **New Centers.** There may be occasional competitions for a limited number of new Centers, under guidelines that will be developed by the

Commission staff in consultation with the governing board staffs and that will be approved by the Commission. New Centers will not be funded unless they have the clear potential to become Accomplished Centers. The initiation of new Centers will not coincide with reductions in continuing expense for Accomplished Centers.

**Approved** April 22, 1988