REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

Committee Chair: Mr. Charles McClemens. Committee Members: Ms. Arax Cohen, Dr. Stan Frohlinger, Mr. Gary Gann, and Dr. George Knox. Commission Staff: Ms. Michelle Smith, manager, Allied Dental Education, Ms. Doreen Johnson, manager, Allied Dental Education, Ms. Peggy Soeldner, manager, Advanced Dental Education, and Mr. Daniel Sloyan, senior project assistant, Allied Dental Education, Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The meeting of the Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) was held on July 8, 2019 via telephone conference call.

CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Informational Report on Frequency of Citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (p. 500): The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education (DLT RC) considered the annual report of the frequency of citings of Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs and noted the most frequently cited areas of non-compliance for site visits conducted between January 1, 2014 and October 31, 2018.

The data indicates that a total of 18 citings of non-compliance were made. Of these, 2 (11.1%) were related to Standard 1–Institutional Effectiveness; 8 (44.4%) were related to Standard 2–Educational Program; 6 (33.3%) were related to Standard 3–Administration, Faculty and Staff; 1 (5.6%) were related to Standard 4–Educational Support Services; and 1 (5.6%) were related to Standard 5–Health and Safety Provisions. Due to the limited number of site visits, a trend in the data cannot be identified.

Recommendation: This report is informational in nature and no action is required.


According to the Commission’s Policy on Assessing the Validity and Reliability of the Accreditation Standards, “the validity and reliability of accreditation standards will be assessed after they have been in effect for a period of time equal to the minimum academic length of the accredited program plus three years.” Thus, the validity and reliability of the standards for a two-year program will be assessed after five (5) years. In accordance with this policy, the Validity and Reliability Study for Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology
Education Programs was initiated in Spring 2019 with the results to be reviewed at the Summer 2019 meeting of the Commission.

At this meeting, the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee (DLT RC) reviewed the results of the survey, as well as written comments gathered (Appendix 2, Policy Report p. 501). It was noted that a total of 5,240 individuals were invited by email to complete the online survey on April 25, 2019. In order to increase the response rate, follow-up mailings were administered to all non-respondents on May 6 and May 15, 2019. Data collection ended on May 20, 2019, yielding 169 respondents, for an overall adjusted response rate of 3.4% (excluding those whose email addresses were invalid).

The DLT RC conducted an initial review of the report, noting the Standards identified by the communities of interest as “too demanding” and “not demanding.” Following review of the report, the DLT RC concluded that, because of the amount of data provided in the report, and to ensure a thorough review of data and the comments received, further study of the survey data is warranted. Further, the DLT RC believed a small workgroup composed of three (3) DLT RC members and two (2) representatives of the National Association of Dental Laboratories should be formed to further study the report and identify Accreditation Standards, if any, which warrant revision. The DLT RC noted that the workgroup would conduct meetings by tele/web-conference; therefore, there would be minimal financial impact to the Commission. A report of the workgroup would be submitted for consideration at the Winter 2020 meetings of the DLT RC and Commission.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation, through the Chair, appoint a workgroup composed of three (3) Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee members and two (2) additional individuals representing the National Association of Dental Laboratories to include one (1) dental laboratory technology educator and one (1) laboratory owner, to further study the findings of the Dental Laboratory Technology Validity and Reliability Study and identify Accreditation Standards, if any, which warrant revision with a report for consideration by the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee and Commission in Winter 2020.

**Consideration of Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs (p. 502):** At its Summer 2019 meeting, the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee (DLT RC) considered proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs submitted by the National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL) Education Section and the NADL Board of Directors (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 502).

The DLT RC discussed the proposed revisions suggested by the NADL Education Section and Board of Directors at length. The DLT RC noted the proposed revisions were related to a change in title for the profession and job title, in addition to numerous revisions to the majority of the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs. The DLT RC also noted that there was no rationale submitted by the NADL to support these proposed revisions. The DLT RC believed that the Commission should formally contact the NADL and
request the rationale to support the proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.

The Review Committee determined that additional information is required to substantiate the proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards. The DLT RC believed that the Commission should formally contact the NADL and request information to support the NADL’s proposed revisions to include the rationale for the proposed revisions to the change in title for the profession, job title, and proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs.

The DLT RC believed that the NADL’s supplement to support the proposed revisions should be submitted to the Commission as soon as possible to be considered by the requested workgroup, and by no later than Winter 2020. The DLT RC noted that the workgroup would conduct meetings by tele/web-conference; therefore, there would be minimal financial impact to the Commission. A report of the workgroup would be submitted for consideration at the Winter 2020 meeting of the DLT RC and Commission.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation formally contact the National Association of Dental Laboratories (NADL) and request the rationale to support the proposed revisions to the Accreditation Standards for Dental Laboratory Technology Education Programs for review by a workgroup to further study the findings of the Dental Laboratory Technology Validity and Reliability Study, with a report to the Dental Laboratory Technology Review Committee and Commission in Winter 2020.

**Consideration of Proposed Revision to Accreditation Standards Definition of Terms Related to Special Needs (p. 503):** On May 28, 2019, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) received a request from the Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA) to consider the standardization of a definition for “Special Needs” across the various Accreditation Standards under the Commission’s purview instead of using different iterations of the definition of special needs. The Special Care Dentistry Association believes that the definition of special needs in many of the educational program Accreditation Standards is missing vulnerable older adults. The SCDA has proposed a definition for “Special Needs” that is derived from the Dental Education Standards (Appendix 1, Policy Report p. 503).

The Dental Laboratory Review Committee (DLT RC) discussed the SCDA’s proposed definition at length. While dental laboratory technicians do not work directly with patients with special needs, the DLT RC felt that including the definition of special needs was warranted due to the increasing opportunities for collaboration between dentists and dental laboratory technicians in the operatory while treating patients. Since this definition does not impact a dental laboratory technology program’s ability to comply with the standards, the Review Committee determined that this definition could be implemented immediately. The DLT RC recommended adoption of the definition noted below (addition is underlined).
Special Needs: Those patients whose medical, physical, psychological, cognitive or social situations make it necessary to consider a wide range of assessment and care options in order to provide dental treatment as well as modify normal dental routines in order to provide dental treatment for that individual. These individuals include, but are not limited to, people with developmental disabilities, cognitive impairment, complex medical conditions, significant physical limitations, and vulnerable older adults.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Commission on Dental Accreditation adopt the proposed revision to the Definition of Terms Used in Dental Laboratory Technology Accreditation Standards, noted above, with immediate implementation.

### CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATING TO MORE THAN ONE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Matters related to more than one review committee are included in a separate report.

### CONSIDERATION OF SITE VISITOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION IN THE AREA OF DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

The Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education considered site visitor appointments for 2019-2020. The Committee’s recommendations on the appointments of individuals are included in a separate report.

### CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS RELATED TO ACCREDITATION STATUS

Matters related to accreditation status of programs are included in a separate report.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Charles McClemens
Chair, Review Committee on Dental Laboratory Technology Education