CAC Practices Concerning Strength Statements

Effective 9 April 2022

The practices of the CAC concerning strength statements is:

1. Team chairs should acknowledge and compliment programs and institutions when they notice that something is well done, particularly when a lot of effort is put into doing it well. Such acknowledgements may take place during discussions with program representatives, informally during the exit meeting, and formally as strength statements in the exit statement.
2. Strength statements in the exit, draft and final statements must include the three components identified in the APPM:

* A description of the strong practice or condition observed by the team
* An explanation of why this practice or condition stands out
* An explanation of the positive impact of the practice or condition on the program or institution

1. The CAC does not require a strength statement to identify only “exceptionally” strong practices nor only practices that stand out “above the norm”.
2. CAC team chairs should work with their counterpart from the other reviewing commission to, when appropriate, have identical strength statements for jointly-reviewed programs.
3. CAC team chairs should work with their counterparts from other commissions during simultaneous reviews to ensure any CAC strength statements are consistent with program and institutional-level strength statements of other commissions at the time of the exit meeting.
4. CAC institutional strengths are appropriate when identifying an institutional-level practice which positively impacts two or more reviewed programs, including at least one CAC program. Institutional-level strengths are most commonly identified in simultaneous reviews.
5. In consultation with the team chair, a CAC editor may modify or remove a strength statement from a draft statement if it does not follow the above guidelines.