

**CCE UNDER FIRE**

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changes in their policies, curriculum, or procedures that are not found in CCE's published standards."

Groups speaking in favor of the CCE were the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Association of Chiropractic Colleges, the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards and the American Chiropractic Association.

CCE was represented by Dr. Joseph Brimhall, President of CCE's Board of Directors, Martha S. O'Connor, Executive Director, Dr. Kathleen Galligan, Chair of the Commission on Accreditation and several attorneys and staff.

**USDE Committee Members' Response to Public Comments:**

Members of the USDE Advisory Committee responded to the public testimony with dozens of insightful, searching questions and very quickly centered on the issue of the control of CCE's governance. Four members of the Committee were especially concerned with apparent conflict of interest issues and the self-perpetuating nature of CCE's governance, using the term "cartel" 17 times in their discussion.

The philosophical nature of the divide within the profession was well recognized by Committee members and several articulated the fact that it was not the job of the USDE to sort out such issues. Many Committee members did grasp that in addition to the issue of philosophy, however, the behavior of the

minority in control of CCE, able to act to their own advantage, was a cause for grave concern. Repeatedly using the term "doctrine" to describe the dominant position within the CCE, numerous Committee members spoke about the need for greater tolerance, openness and the accommodation of other viewpoints.

On six separate occasions reference was made by four different Committee members about the possible need for a second chiropractic accrediting body to serve the needs of a clearly divided profession. This repeated reference to the willingness of the USDE Committee to consider such a competing agency took all chiropractic representatives by surprise, but clearly showed the Committee's concern for and awareness of the implications of a single, un-representative chiropractic accrediting body.

Extensive discussion took place between Committee members and the representative from the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners on how graduates of colleges accredited by a federally recognized agency other than CCE would be treated in the examination process. Following several minutes of intense interchange, the NBCE representative did acknowledge that such graduates would be allowed to sit for exams but that the content of the tests could not be changed to accommodate them. It was following this exchange that the discussion of the existence of a "cartel" took place. Several committee members identified the CCE as a central monopoly agency functioning within a cartel.

In the closing minutes of the discussion among Committee members, Advi-

sory Committee Chair Dr. Carol D'Amico asked CCE President Dr. Joseph Brimhall why those few groups speaking in favor of CCE did so with little enthusiasm, as if going through the motions, in contrast to the large number of critics, speaking with such passion. Dr. Brimhall simply responded by saying that he felt that those supporting CCE were credible and represented the majority in the profession.


**What is Next for CCE?:**

The Committee has made a recommendation to the US Secretary of Education to extend CCE's recognition for a period of five years, with four specific areas of change identified by USDE as needing change. The Committee also adopted the staff recommendation that a report on reform progress be submitted to USDE by June, 2007. Ultimate action on this recommendation is in the hands of the Secretary.

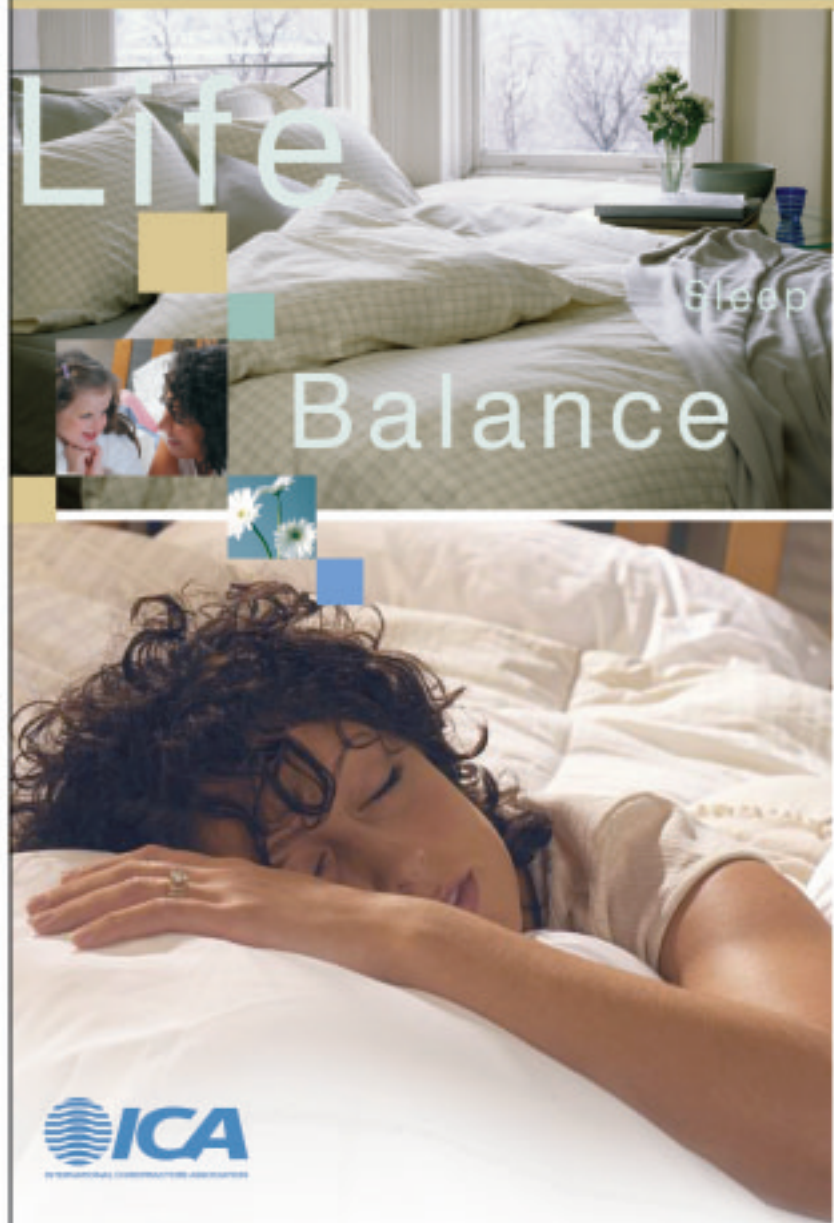
In recent years CCE has been at the center of much controversy, even prior to its 2002 revocation of the accreditation of Life University's chiropractic degree program. This decision was reversed by a federal court, the only such decision to be reversed by a federal district court in the history of higher education accreditation. In subsequent years CCE has been the target of a series of formal complaints, which resulted in the USDE finding CCE "not in compliance" with a number of the criteria required by the federal agency for recognition. This recent history has raised CCE's profile and has focused scrutiny on its activities, and issues such as fairness and potential conflict

of interest as never before.


"ICA is looking for substantive reforms within the CCE, and believes that the ultimate survival of a sound system of chiropractic education in the US depends on it," said ICA President Dr. John Maltby. "ICA was present at the USDE hearings out of a deep concern for chiropractic's future and in the hope that such frank discussion will assist CCE decision-makers in moving forward with the real reforms to which they have alluded. The CCE is facing unprecedented scrutiny which will not end after these hearings. ICA is ready and willing to work on every possible level to assist CCE in this reform effort, but only time will tell."



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