

and the time allotted. Each person desiring to make an oral presentation must provide the point of contact listed above with one (1) written copy of the presentation by 5 p.m., April 15, 2005, and bring 15 written copies of any material that is intended for distribution at the meeting. Persons submitting a written statement must submit 15 written copies of the statement to the Task Force staff by 5 p.m. on April 15, 2005.

*General Information:* Additional information concerning the Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at The Military Service Academies, its structure, function, and composition, may be found on the DTFSH and VTMA Web site (<http://www.dtic.mil/dtfs>).

Dated: April 1, 2005.

**Jeannette Owings-Ballard,**

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 05-6826 Filed 4-5-05; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001-06-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

**AGENCY:** Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

**ACTION:** Notice.

(1) Approval of Minutes—February 8, 2005.

(2) Faculty Matters.

(3) Departmental Reports.

(4) Financial Report.

(5) Report—Interim President, USUHS.

(6) Report—Dean, School of Medicine.

(7) Report—Dean, Graduate School of Nursing.

(8) Approval of Degrees—School of Medicine; Graduate School of Nursing.

(9) Comments—Chairman, Board of Regents.

(10) New Business.

**DATES:** May 20, 2005, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Board of Regents Conference Room (D3001), 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20814-4799.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Barry W. Wolcott, M.D., Executive Secretary, Board of Regents, (301) 295-3681.

Dated: March 31, 2005.

**Jeannette Owings-Ballard,**

*OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
Department of Defense.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### The Federal Student Aid Programs Under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Notice inviting letters of application for participation in the Quality Assurance Program.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Education invites institutions of higher education that may wish to participate in the Quality Assurance Program, under section 487A(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to submit a letter of application to participate in the program.

**DATES:** Letters of application may be submitted any time after April 6, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** Institutions wishing to apply to participate in the Quality Assurance Program may do so by mailing a letter of application to Barbara Mroz, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., room 84F1, Washington, DC 20202-5232 or by submitting a letter of application electronically to Barbara Mroz at: [Barbara.Mroz@ed.gov](mailto:Barbara.Mroz@ed.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharyn Hutson, Federal Student Aid, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., room 83G3, Washington, DC 20202-5232. Telephone: (202) 377-4379, or via e-mail: [Sharyn.Hutson@ed.gov](mailto:Sharyn.Hutson@ed.gov).

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-888-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape or computer diskette) on request by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Background

Institutions of higher education are invited to join the Department in an effort to simplify regulations and administrative processes for the Federal Student Aid (FSA) Programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The vision of the Quality Assurance Program, with 145 institutions currently participating,

is to provide tools that help all Title IV institutions promote better service to students, compliance, and continuous improvement in program delivery. The program encourages participating institutions to develop and implement their own comprehensive systems to verify student financial aid application data, and continually assess compliance to Federal requirements.

The Secretary is authorized to provide participating institutions with regulatory flexibility for the verification of student data, and to encourage alternative approaches that improve award accuracy.

The Secretary believes that the process of continuous improvement fostered by the institutions already participating in the Quality Assurance Program has enhanced not only the accuracy of student aid awards and payments, but also the management of student aid offices and the delivery of services to students.

#### Features of the Program

The mission of the Quality Assurance Program is to help schools attain, sustain, and advance exceptional student aid delivery and service excellence. For the past 19 years, the program has done that by providing participating institutions with the flexibility to design an institutional verification program that more directly focuses on their own population segments. It has also helped them target areas of administration that affect award accuracy or that may leave the institution vulnerable to potential liabilities.

The Quality Assurance Program has given institutions the tools and techniques to assess, measure, analyze, correct and prevent problems, and has provided them with data on which to base their decisions for solving problems and addressing verification issues.

The Secretary encourages institutions participating in the Quality Assurance Program to evaluate their student aid or verification policies and procedures and adopt improvements in those procedures. Institutions measure performance and test the effectiveness of their verification program by using the Department's ISIR Analysis Tool. The ISIR Analysis Tool is a web-based software product that provides Financial Aid Administrators with an in-depth analysis of their applicant population. It allows them to see not only which FAFSA elements changed when verified, but also what impact these changes have upon the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and aid eligibility. This analysis helps Financial