

## **Group on Student Affairs Committee on Student Affairs (COSA) Annual Report 2009**

The GSA Committee on Student Affairs (COSA) met three times during the past year. There were no changes in membership in the committee this year. Members of the Committee include Steve Specter, PhD representing the Southern Region- U South Florida, W. Scott Schroth, M.D., MPH representing the Northeast Region- George Washington University, Henry Lambertson, PsyD representing the Western Region- Loma Linda University, Paul Bunger, PhD representing the Central Region- University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Virginia Hardy, PhD- MAS Representative- Brody School of Medicine- East Carolina University, Drew Updike- OSR Representative- Tulane University School of Medicine, Michael Kavan, PhD- GSA National Chair-Elect- Creighton University and Sam Parrish, M.D. – COSA Chair- Drexel University College of Medicine.

### **Discussion and Action Items:**

Each COSA Representative does an excellent job of effectively representing their individual regions and bringing concerns and issues identified by their constituents to the committee for discussion and action. This year, several issues were raised resulting in the appointment of “working groups” including COSA and other Committee members. Specific Issues considered and addressed during the past year included:

1. Compensation, Staffing and Funding of Student Affairs Offices:
  - a. An on-line survey was distributed in September of 2009 to all student affairs officers. The results of this survey are currently undergoing review and study findings will be made available as soon as possible.
2. MSPE Revision and Potential Streamlining
  - a. Maureen Garrity, PhD is heading a working group that is addressing potential streamlining of the MSPE to make this a more effective and usable document. The work group had its initial meeting during the Summer Committee meetings in July and is meeting again during the annual meetings.
  - b. Members of the MSPE Work group will be holding “drop in” sessions during the annual meeting to hear concerns and suggestions from all student affairs officers.
3. Fourth Year Student Elective Work Group
  - a. A working group was established to address electives for fourth year medical students. Steve Specter, PhD, represented COSA and the group is being led by Vicki Fields from COSR. This group will address specific concerns including:
    - i. Affiliation Agreements
    - ii. Malpractice Insurance
    - iii. Needle Stick Insurance
4. Revision of Scramble
  - a. W. Scott Schroth, M.D., MPH is representing COSA on this project which is being co-led by Michael Kavan, PhD.
5. Mental Health Concerns of Medical Students
  - a. A Working Group consisting of Neal Parker, M.D., UCLA, Michael Kavan, PhD- Creighton, Tom Koenig, M.D., Johns Hopkins and Sam Parrish M.D., Drexel have met to review findings from the Student Affairs Officers Survey of Medical Student Mental Health Concerns. The group’s survey served as a starting point for the development of the OSR Survey of Medical Student Mental Health Concerns.
  - b. The Working Group has recommended the development of an “effective practices” document as well as a resource website where individual schools can share ideas as well as concerns.
  - c. The development of “effective practices” materials as well as the implementation of the Mental Health Website will be a major focus of activity for COSA in the coming year.

6. Revision of the Student Affairs Officers Handbook

- a. The updated Student Affairs Officers Handbook has been completed and is posted.

Goals for the coming year include the development of a Student Mental Health Services Website and continuing work on areas of ongoing activity such as the MSPE Revision and 4<sup>th</sup> Year Electives working group.

Sam Parrish, M.D.

Chair, National GSA – COSA 2007-2010