



**Group on Student Affairs
Committee on Student Affairs (COSA) Annual Report 2008**

The GSA Committee on Student Affairs (COSA) met three times during the past year (at the November 2007 Annual AAMC Meeting, in January 2008 and in July 2008). There have been changes in the committee membership this year. Maureen Garrity, PhD COSA Chair and Mike Prislun, MD representing the Western Region completed their tenure on the committee at the November Meeting. Members continuing their tenure on COSA include Steve Specter, PhD (Southern Region- U South Florida), W. Scott Schroth, M.D., MPH (Northeast Region- George Washington U) and Paul Bunger, PhD (Central Region, U South Dakota), Virginia Hardy, PhD (MAS Representative, East Carolina U), and OSR Representative Kathryn O'Connor (University of Rochester). New members to the committee are Henry Lamberton, PsyD (Western Region, Loma Linda U), Molly Osborne, M.D., PhD (Oregon, GSA national Chair-Elect), Sam Parrish, M.D. (COSA Chair) and Cynthia Boyd, M.D. (MAS Chair, Rush U).

Discussion and Action Items:

COSA representatives do an excellent and effective job of representing their individual regions and bringing issues and concerns identified from their constituencies to the committee for discussion and action. Issues considered and addressed during the past year included:

- 1. Compensation, Staffing and Funding of Student Affairs Offices**
 - a. An on-line survey has been developed which will be distributed to GSA representatives that will gather data addressing funding, staffing, scope of responsibility, operating budgets and reporting structures. The timeline for release of the survey is Fall 2008.

- 2. Effective Practices for the Scramble Document-** A document was developed in conjunction with ERAS and in cooperation with the NRMP which was distributed to Student Affairs Officers prior to the 2008 Match. Student Affairs Officers were encouraged to forward this document to program directors at their institutions.

- 3. Joint COSA-COSR Project concerning Affiliation Agreements**
 - a. The Committee on Student Affairs met jointly with the Committee on Student Records to address concerns regarding Affiliation Agreements with individual hospitals. Hospitals and medical schools requiring individual agreements limit the ability of students to do "away" rotations and may have an impact on student recruitment to residency programs. The COSR and COSA addressed these concerns to the Steering Committee and work is underway to address these issues.

- b. The roll out of the Visiting Student Application Service may have impact on the specific concerns and further discussion of Affiliation Agreements has been placed on hold.

4. Professional Development Conference

- a. COSA planned and held a Professional Development Conference in Tucson, Arizona from June 18-22, 2008. The Conference addressed the residency application, recruitment and match process. The PDC was very successful with 108 attendees. Feedback from the conference was quite positive.
- b. Handout materials and presentations from the PDC are available on the GSA webpage.

5. Revision of the Handbook for Student Affairs Officers.

- a. A Revision of the Handbook for Student Affairs Officers is underway. The initial Handbook was released in 2005. The goal is to have the handbook ready for release for Regional Spring Meetings in 2009.

6. Student Mental Health

- a. The issue of Student Mental Health was raised for discussion by regional representatives. COSA brought this issue to the Steering Committee of GSA for discussion. A working group has been established to formally address these issues.

Goals for the coming year include: Implementation and evaluation of the Compensation, Staffing and Funding Survey, Revision of the Handbook for Student Affairs Officers, continuing the work on Affiliation Agreements, and addressing Student Mental Health Concerns and Wellness Issues for medical students.

Samuel Parrish, M.D.
Chair, National GSA-COSA, 2007-2010