



Group on Student Affairs Southern Region Annual Report

Current officers

Steven T. Case, Associate Dean for Admissions, University of Mississippi School of Medicine, SGSA Chair; Marc Kahn, Associate Dean for Admissions & Student Affairs, Tulane University School of Medicine, SGSA Chair Elect; Stacey R. McCorison, Associate Dean Medical Education Administration., Financial Aid & Registrar, Duke University School of Medicine, Vice Chair; David Jones, Associate Dean for Admissions, University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio, SGSA Immediate Past Chair; Rosie Cannarella, Assistant Dean of Student Services, West Virginia University School of Medicine, SGSA Secretary-Treasurer.

SGSA Steering Committee

Karen Lewis, Registrar & Director of Student Information Systems, Morehouse School of Medicine, Minority Affairs Section (MAS) Chair; Brenda Latham-Sadler, Assistant Dean for Student Services, Director of Diversity and Development Initiatives, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, MAS Chair Elect; Kit Lu, Medical Student, Florida State University College of Medicine, Organization of Student Representatives (OSR) Chair; Jenny Olges, Medical Student, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, OSR Chair-Elect; Filomeno G. Maldonado, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Texas A & M University, Committee on Admissions Representative; Melissa Stevens, Financial Aid Director, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Committee on Financial Affairs Representative; Steven Specter, Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, University of South Florida College of Medicine, Committee on Student Affairs Representative; Forrest Page, Registrar, University North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Committee on Student Records Representative; Lee Jones Associate Dean for Student Affairs, University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio, At-Large Member; Virginia Hardy, Interim Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, At-Large Member.

National Leadership

Marvin “Ted” Williams, Associate Vice President for Diversity and Equal Opportunity (DEO), University of South Florida College of Medicine served as Chair of GSA Minority Affairs Section; Georgette A. Dent, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, University of North Carolina School of Medicine served as GSA Chair Elect; David Jones, Associate Dean for Admissions, University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio was selected as one of two candidates to stand for election as GSA Chair.

Listserv

Communication among SGSA constituents was enhanced by the effort of David Jones, SGSA Chair, to revive the SGSA listserv. Among many other benefits, this enabled alerts to be posted about updates to the regions first Web site for a spring meeting:

<http://som.umc.edu/sgsa/index.html> created by Steven Case, Chair Elect/Program Chair, and hosted by the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Topics of Interest

- AAMC implementation of criminal background checks
- GSA MAS Strategic Plan
- Holistic review of medical school applications
- Expanding roles of minority affairs offices at medical schools
- Effective communication with pre-health advisors and admissions officers
- Professionalism of medical school applicants, medical students and faculty
- Logistical issues pertaining to increased medical school class size
- Conflicts of interest between financial aid officers and preferred lenders
- Broad emphasis on diversity that diminishes the focus on race and ethnicity
- First generation applicants
- Financial aid counseling and student debt
- Standardization of visiting student applications

Past Meetings

The annual spring regional SGSA meeting was held jointly with the Southern Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (SAAHP) on April 12-15, 2007 in Little Rock, AR at The Peabody Little Rock. The theme was "Building Bridges." The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences was the host institution; Richard Wheeler, Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, served as local arrangements chair. The opening reception was held at the William J. Clinton School for Public Service followed by dinner and self-guided tour of the Clinton Presidential Library. There were 287 attendees; about two thirds were from SGSA (including 61 students) or AAMC and one third SAAHP/NAAHP and related organizations. The program consisted of two invited plenary sessions, concurrent break out sessions selected from peer-reviewed proposals and updates from AAMC staff. Several joint sessions afforded opportunities for pre-professional advisors, medical students and student affairs personnel to interact. SGSA continued its practice of paying the registration fee for up to two students per medical school provided that one is an OSR representative and the second is preferably from a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in medicine. A silent auction was held at which \$530 were raised for Heifer International whose mission is "to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth." Heifer's corporate headquarters is located in Little Rock

Feedback from meeting evaluation forms was favorable.

The Southern region Minority Affairs Section's (SMAS) conducted a mini-professional development conference on April 11-12, 2007 at the Peabody Little Rock. Cooperation between SMAS and SGSA leadership enabled this conference to be linked to the regional SGSA/SAAHP meeting program resulting in lower meeting costs (cost-free meeting

room and discounted hotel guest rooms and audiovisual support) and participation by GSA constituents whose primary responsibilities are outside minority affairs. Feedback from all attendees was very favorable, including a desire for additional MAS mini-PDCs.

Many SGSA schools had representatives attending and/or participating in the Joint Professional Development Conference for Financial Aid Administrators and Student Records, January 10-13, 2007 - Doubletree Paradise Valley, Scottsdale, AZ and the GSA Professional Development Conference for Medical School Admissions Officers June 21-24, 2007 - Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, Scottsdale, AZ.

Future Meetings

The 2008 spring regional SGSA meeting will be held jointly with Central Group on Student Affairs (CGSA) from April 9-13 at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa in Destin, FL. The theme will be “Destin for Change: Riding the Waves.” Marc Kahn from SGSA and Linda Bissell from CGSA are Co-Chairs for Program Planning. The CGSA and SGSA leadership have agreed that program planning will include a joint regional MAS mini-PDC on April 8th. The University of Mississippi School of Medicine will be the SGSA host school and handle local arrangements; CGSA will announce its host school(s).

SGSA will meet alone in spring 2009. The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas will be the host school; dates will be announced.

Service Awards

The 2007 SGSA Robert “Bob” Sabalis Award for Exemplary Service was presented to Carol Elam, Associate Dean for Admissions and Institutional Advancement, Director of Medical Education Research and Professor of Behavioral Science at the University of Kentucky School of Medicine.

Budget

SGSA is financially secure; the custodial account balance is \$52,119.43

Respectfully submitted,
Steven T Case, Ph.D.,
Chair, Southern Region GSA