

## **Western Region Group On Student Affairs Annual Report 2002-2003**

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The Western Group on Student Affairs (WGSA) had a very successful regional meeting at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California April 27-30, 2003. In collaboration with the Western Association of Advisors to the Health Professions, the meeting attracted more than 200 registrants. Its theme, "Fostering Leadership in Health Care and Academic Institutions" was addressed in the keynote address by Dr. Robert Ross, president and CEO of the California Endowment, and in plenary and workshop sessions which were supplemented by traditional topics of interest to GSA membership. In a departure from past tradition, attendees journeyed inland to Salinas and the National Steinbeck Center where they enjoyed good food, good times, and a look at the life and times of John Steinbeck and the Salinas Valley. The Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California hosted the meeting, and the planning committee consisted of enthusiastic representatives from the WGSA, WGSA-MAS and WAAHP.

Business meetings were held at both National and Regional meetings. At the National meeting, members voted to cut back on spending on the annual regional meeting and aim to produce a "revenue neutral" meeting. At the Regional meeting, the membership voted to:

- Send the chair elect to the July GSA Leadership forum.
- Delegate authority to decide urgent matters to an executive committee comprised of the current chair, immediate past chair, and chair elect. This group would collectively take action on matters arising that cannot wait for action until the next general business meeting of the WGSA,
- Initiate a regional mentor program, resulting in mentors assigned to new WGSA members from Hawaii and Utah.

Additionally, the group considered the idea of a regional award for outstanding service and decided to take no action presently, but to revisit the idea at a future meeting. A formal financial report was deferred to the November business meeting, pending final accounting of the regional meeting expenses.

To address the need for an enduring WGSA web site, Evie Kumpart from UCLA volunteered to host the WGSA home page from this point forward. The COSA representative will assist with the set up. The site will include: WGSA membership list (including email addresses), business meeting minutes, links to conference information (regional meetings, etc), and other information of interest to the region's membership. Web pages from current and past regional meetings will be kept for two years, then deleted.

Current WGSA representatives to national committees include:

- Gabriel Garcia, M.D. of Stanford University School of Medicine, to the Committee on Admissions.

- Maureen Garrity, Ph.D. of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, to the Committee on Student Affairs.
- Deborah Anderson of the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, to the Committee on Student Records.
- Ronald Garcia, Ph.D. of Stanford University School of Medicine presently serves as chair of the WGSA MAS, and Roberto Gomez, M.D. of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine serves as chair elect.

Peggy Dupey, Ph.D. of the University of Nevada School of Medicine was thanked for completing her three-year term on the Committee on Student Financial Assistance. The new WGSA representative to COSFA will be Carrie Steere-Salazar of the University of California, San Francisco.

The next regional meeting of the WGSA, a joint meeting with the Western Group on Educational Affairs (WGEA) will be held again at the Asilomar Conference grounds April 25-28, 2004, and the same site has been reserved for May 1-4, 2005. The University of California, San Francisco led by Maxine Papadakis, will be 2004's host school.

**Peter J Katsufarakis, M.D., M.B.A.**  
**Chair, Western Region Group on Student Affairs**