Welcome

Earlier this month, the Group on Faculty Affairs Steering Committee and three subcommittees (Research, Professional Development and Nomination and Membership) held its annual strategic planning meeting in Washington DC. When the GFA was first established in 2006, the focus was solely on supporting faculty affairs leaders.

The Steering Committee spent considerable time discussing a need to develop a communication message that conveys to the GFA and other AAMC Professional Development groups GFA’s priorities and focus.

The Steering Committee will convene in the spring to continue this work and distribute the findings during the GFA Professional Development Conference Aug 8-10, 2010 in Toronto, Canada.

Highlights from the day and half discussions include:

- Recognition of the need to acknowledge the challenging environments in which faculty members now work and explore how aspects of the environment currently both hinders and supports their work. This is the heart of the GFA agenda

- An expanded focus on organizational vitality and alignment

As the Steering Committee continues to develop a national agenda and priorities, announcements will be communicated to the larger GFA community. If you have any questions contact Dr. Karen Novielli, Chair of the GFA at karen.novielli@jefferson.edu.

Sincerely,
Karen Novielli, M.D., Chair
& the GFA Steering Committee Leadership

Leadership Forum

In December 2009, the AAMC Board convened the Leadership Forum to discuss organizational alignment. Greg Shea, Ph.D., a consultant and faculty member with primary affiliation at the Wharton School, delivered the opening plenary address on his work systems model that conceptualizes the variety of influences that yield behavior in the workplace.

This provided a foundation for small group discussions focused on various alignment topics such as centers and institutes, education, evaluation and incentives, interprofessional education and care, and recruitment.

There are plans to publish a “proceedings” book designed as an alignment resource kit for use by member institutions, to be distributed in the spring. Check the GFA website for updates www.aamc.org/members/facultyaffairs/

Spotlight

Karen Novielli, M.D. is the Chair of the AAMC Group on Faculty Affairs (GFA) and the Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development at Jefferson Medical College. http://www.jefferson.edu/mc/facultyaffairs.cfm

In the Dean's Office, she has primary responsibility for implementing faculty development programs and oversight of the appointment, promotion and tenure systems. Prior to assuming her present administrative role, Dr. Novielli served as Section Chief and Fellowship Director for Geriatric Medicine in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Jefferson.

She is a past recipient of the AAMC Thomas Hale Ham Award for New Investigators in Medical Education Research. Dr. Novielli’s academic interests include: understanding factors that impact and improve the career satisfaction of medical school faculty, measuring and improving outcomes related to faculty Development and faculty affairs activities.

Committee Corner

The GFA would like to welcome the new Steering Committee Members: Luanne Thorsnyke, M.D., Associate Dean for Professional Development, Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine; Lisa Heiser, Asst. Dean for Faculty Development & Equity, Johns Hopkins University; Faculty Staff Liaison, Gregg Servis, M.Div., Director, Faculty Development, University of California, Davis and; ORR Liaison, James Wyss, M.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.