
WESTERN REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

I. WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING - Medicine in the Info Age

Proposed OSR Topics + Coordinators:

- 1) INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS
Coordinators: Mark Blumenthal
Sharon Picker Amon, UCD
David Zucker, Stanford
Mike Stuntz; Univ. of Arizona
- 2) COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR GETTING THINGS DONE (MARKETING)
Coordinators: David Zucker, Stanford
Sheila Rege, UCLA
Cynthia Carlson, Univ. of Wash.
Don Arnandez, UCSD
P.S. Sheila Rege, UCLA had offered to invite Martin Pops, MD,
Student Affairs Dean at UCLA, to speak at this session.
- 3) COMPUTERS/CONFER, EDUC. PACKAGES
Coordinators: Mike Stuntz, Univ. of Ariz.
Eric Silverman, Univ. of Ariz.
Sheila Rege, UCLA
P.S. Michael McCoy, MD, Asst. Dean of Computers at UCLA, and a
dynamic speaker, has agreed to talk at this session and
will be bringing computers + software used at UCLA
- 4) WORKSHOP ON PERSONAL POWER/TRANSITION INTO CLINICAL MEDICINE
Coordinators: ???
- 5) TEACHING/EVALUATION OF TEACHERS
Coordinators: Maribel Garcia-Soto, UCSF
- 6) OTHER PLANNED ACTIVITIES:
 - a> PARTY - Jim Guard, John Witte, Larry Kelly
 - b> DINNER WITH DEANS
- Scott Dunn, Jim Guard
 - c> LUNCH WITH ADVISORS - ???

NOTE FROM MIKE:

I am getting together my presentation on the Soviet Health Care System and I am wondering if any of you are interested in presenting any of your experiences with a different delivery system. I remember that a few of you had offered at the National Meeting in DC and if the offer is still good, get in touch with me.

Thanks,
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II. FINANCIAL AID UPDATE
By Scott Dunn

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The following brief discussion gives you a summary of significant changes in federal eligibility rules which will be implemented for the 1988-89 academic year. The changes will result in reductions in assistance to most students with the biggest reductions in awards to students with dependents. For more information, or for specific information unique to your school, contact your financial aid administrator.

1. Student (& Spouse) Earnings -

Present: Student's earnings for purposes of calculating student contribution are based on the student's estimate of future earnings for the coming year. The student is expected to contribute a minimum of \$900 for that academic year. For example, assume John S. is applying for financial aid for the 1988-89 academic year. John would estimate his earnings for the 1988-89 academic year (including the summer of 1988). Either this amount, or \$900, whichever is greater, would be used by the federal government for calculating the student's contribution for the 1988-89 academic year.

1988-89: Student's earnings for purposes of calculating student contribution are based on the student's actual earnings for the previous calendar year. The student is still expected to contribute a minimum of \$900 for that academic year. Back to our example, John S. would report his 1987 calendar year earnings. The federal government would use this amount, or \$900, whichever is greater, for calculating the student's contribution for the 1988-89 academic year.

Federal Government Logic:

- a. Students are underestimating their future earnings.
- b. Independent and dependent students should be required to contribute amounts that are similar.

2. Expense Budget -

Present: Student's estimated budget for the academic year based on student family size. For example, assume John S. has two dependents other than himself. The estimated budget to attend "State" medical school for a single student is \$10,000 and for a student with two other dependents is \$17,000. The federal government uses \$17,000 for John S. when calculating his academic year expense budget.

1988-89: Student's estimated budget for the academic year not based on student family size. All students are assumed to have the same expense budget as that of a single student. In our example, the federal govt. would use \$10,000 for John S. when calculating his academic year budget at "State" medical school. If the student is awarded any federal money, the student must not be awarded any more money than needed to meet the \$10,000 budget. However, if the student receives financial aid from state and other sources (but no federal money) then the budget for John S. may again be set at \$17,000.

Federal Government Logic:

- a. Financial Aid is for the student and not his family. The family is expected to support themselves while the student is in medical school.

The laws which created this situation are already in place. What is OSR to do?

III. COMPUTERS AT UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

By Mike Stuntz, University of Arizona

In the Preparation for Clinical Medicine (PCM) course at the University of Arizona, there are currently 20 hours of computer instruction during the basic science years. In year one, the first semester consists of 4 hours of word processing instruction and an introduction to the IBM PC and the Macintosh systems. There is an additional 4 hours of programming in BASIC and some advanced word processing instruction. The word processing skills come in handy because the note service run by students requires computer literacy to participate. Second semester (MS1) has 6 hrs devoted to spread sheet and data base work with and introduction to using modems to access a great deal of information. The second year has 10 more hours of advanced instruction that deals primarily with clinical applications of computers. This involves computer assisted diagnosis, patient write-ups, and accessing pertinent information.

The advantage of the program is, as I see it, that the students get extensive exposure to computers and their direct medical applications. This exposure is particularly valuable to those students that have no previous computer experience, but less so to those that do. Ideally, one would have classes taught at various skill levels to accommodate both the expert and the novice. The disadvantage to our system is that these courses were added on top of an already busy schedule and are often the first thing to be blown off. The fact that there are no tests and the class is sort of optional has had some negative effects, but most students find many sessions valuable.

IV NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here it is at last -the much awaited Western Region Newsletter. It has been fun putting it together and I hope we continue it on a monthly basis. I am real thrilled about all the input and I can't wait to hear from you about new things going on at your school, your pet project for the year, etc. How about aiming to get another newsletter out in end-January? I have just bought a modem and should be hooked up to the CONFER system soon so that will make communications easier. But till then, do continue to mail articles to my home-address (see below).

Have a great Christmas!

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