



Council of Faculty and Academic Societies

CFAS Business Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2020; 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Confirmed Registrants

115 CFAS representatives registered for the meeting.

Meeting convened at 3:02 p.m.

Dr. Popescu welcomed all CFAS representatives thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet. She explained that during the call, representatives would receive updates on AAMC business, a description of the **CFAS Connects** initiative, and an update on the work of the CFAS Nominating Committee. Dr. Popescu would also like to spend time hearing from CFAS representatives.

Dr. Popescu gave an update on CFAS demographics, including the split between society and school representatives and the percentages of men and women representatives serving on the council. She then gave updates on the AAMC and CFAS's response to the pandemic, racism, and police brutality in the country, describing a number of resources available on the AAMC website.

Dr. Popescu then talked about the AAMC's strategic planning process before and during the pandemic. Ten strategic action plans have been developed and will be shared widely in October. Lastly, the sign-on letter topics were shared with the representatives on the call and Dr. Popescu urged society representatives to keep their institutions engaged in these CFAS initiatives.

AAMC Update

Eric Weissman explained that the AAMC shut its doors to staff in response to the growing pandemic on March 12th, 2020 and has been operating virtually since. This also prompted a series of in-person meeting cancelations through at least June of 2021. This includes bringing constituents to the building and spring meetings that occur at other locations across the country. The CFAS spring meeting that was supposed to be held next year is also canceled. Until it is safe to meet in person again, CFAS is putting together a series of virtual forums, called **CFAS Connects**, that aims to give representatives a chance to interact with each other, gain some professional development, and learn about the ongoing work of CFAS committees.

Learn Serve Lead 2020: The AAMC Annual Meeting will be held virtually this November 16 – 18. Registration is now open and the meeting will feature presentations by Francis Collins, MD, PhD, Anthony Fauci, MD, Nicole Hannah-Jones, and others. Eric also discussed the article that appeared in *The New York Times* about the safety of the administration of the MCAT exam and the AAMC's response. The safety of the exam sites is a priority for the AAMC and the AAMC has taken many steps to ensure that those taking the exam will not be at risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

Lastly, Eric spent time talking about CFAS tweet chats as well as the various CFAS communications that go out on a regular basis, including the *CFAS Rep Bulletin* and *CFAS News*.

CFAS Program Committee Update

Dr. Haramati gave an update on a major initiative being put forth by the Program Committee, called **CFAS Connects**. He explained where CFAS sits in AAMC leadership and informed the group that the council plays a pivotal role in the decision-making process of the organization. **CFAS Connects** provides a monthly engagement opportunity for CFAS representatives and gives them a platform to voice their concerns, which council leadership can bring to AAMC leadership.

The entire CFAS community is able to attend these monthly forums. Dr. Haramati informed the group that the meetings will alternate between Wednesdays and Thursdays each month between 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET to allow all representatives the opportunity to attend. The schedule will be sent out to all representatives in the coming days. Some sessions will be webinars while some will be community forums hosted by the various CFAS committees. Each session will be recorded to allow representatives to access them at a later date. Dr. Haramati shared a few topics that the Program Committee wanted to tackle, including the following:

- How faculty are facing challenges during the pandemic
- The path forward on racism and gender equity at academic health centers
- Social Justice and the mission of the medical school
- USMLE Step 1: perspectives from UME, GME, and NBME

Dr. Haramati asked representatives on the call to type topic ideas, suggestions for session moderators, and ideas that had already been put forward into the WebEx chat box.

CFAS Nominating Committee Update

Dr. Gitlin briefly explained the role of the Nominating Committee in helping to maintain the continuity of the CFAS leadership structure, including within the committee itself and the Administrative Board. The committee appoints and/or reappoints four new members to the CFAS Administrative Board each year and a new Chair-elect every other year. Dr. Gitlin showed the group the current Administrative Board and pointed out the four members that are to either be reappointed or rotate off the board this year:

- Nita Ahuja, MD (to be reappointed)
- Mona Abaza, MD (rotating off board)
- Arthur Derse, MD, JD (to be reappointed)
- J. David Warren, PhD (rotating off board)

Dr. Gitlin showed the group the new Administrative Board, including the reappointed representatives and two new representatives:

- Serina Neumann, PhD (Senior Medical School Representative)
- Adam Franks, MD (Senior Medical School Representative)

The slate was distributed a few weeks before the meeting and was overwhelmingly approved. The new slate will begin their terms in November.

This fall, the Nominating Committee will be accepting nominations for the Administrative Board, the Chair-elect position, and for positions on the Nominating Committee itself. The elections for these positions will take place in the spring.

Q&A

- Dr. Gitlin brought up the topic of fellows, residents, and trainees becoming stressed out about the possibility of not being able to find jobs during the pandemic. He is interested to see what faculty at other institutions are doing to help their trainees through this process, including video interviews.
- Dr. Fisher thinks that information about this topic could be provided by CFAS. She suggested developing a repository of ideas for these kinds of issues.
- Dr. Templeton explained that her institution has an initiative like this for women trainees and residents to help them with video interviews.
- Dr. Jordan feels that the last interview season will be used to help deal with next year's season.
- Dr. Nelson explained that at her institution, Zoom "speed mentoring" occurs between junior and senior faculty as a way to connect and discuss a variety of issues. They have been receiving lots of interest.
- Dr. Anzai noted that the interview process is better for the students and trainees in many cases because they do not have the burden of cost to travel to each institution. This allows many of them to apply to more institutions.
- Dr. Ahuja asked how other representatives are connecting with people outside of video conferencing, explaining the "Zoom fatigue" and burnout that many people are experiencing during this pandemic.
- Dr. Haramati addressed this question and pointed to the incoming group of students that will be virtual. He explained that the incoming class at his institution has been broken up into groups of ten, to be joined by a faculty member and a second-year student. This forum is held every other week and is just a check-in to see how everyone is doing. Two other medical schools have also begun to do the same. Despite being on Zoom, community can still be created.
- At Dr. Popescu's institution, the students organized a book club that began from outrage at the social justice issues happening in the country. Members of the book club discuss their reading in smaller group.
- Dr. Nelson asked about creative solutions for faculty who have young children being educated virtually. It's tough to balance work and life during this pandemic for many people.
- Dr. Lee pointed out that this issue is disproportionately affecting junior faculty and women. She provided some of her institution's well-received recommendations and is happy to share them with anyone that is interested.
- Dr. Lee also noted that she has observed the funding for many of the academic missions at schools has been reduced in a time when it is needed more. These issues include faculty development and funding for educators.
- Dr. Haramati let Dr. Lee know that this topic should be brought up in next month's **CFAS Connects** session.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Resources discussed during meeting:

- *New York Times* article on MCAT safety:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/07/health/coronavirus-exams-mcat.html>
- LSL 2020 Registration:
https://www.cvent.com/events/learn-serve-lead-2020-the-virtual-experience/registration-91e0769fce644654802a6a63de8b32d4.aspx?RefID=LSL2020%20ammc.org&_ga=2.265251663.1368041811.1600204037-714501791.1600204037&fqo=true
- AAMC Strategic Planning pages:
<https://www.aamc.org/what-we-do/strategic-planning/strategic-planning>
- CFAS Societies Sign onto AAMC Statement on Racism and Police Brutality:
<https://www.aamc.org/professional-development/affinity-groups/cfas/cfas-societies-sign-aamc-statement-racism-and-police-brutality>