

TRENDS

Association of
Schools of
Allied Health
Professions

HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2003

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VANGUARD OF
ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION

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FUND DEVELOPMENT NEEDS WILL BE ADDRESSED

Cutbacks in spending by States across the country have had a devastating impact on institutions of higher education. Colleges and universities have few options to pursue in efforts to bring revenues in line with expenditures. Perhaps the most unpopular choice would be to raise tuition rates. That step has been taken so often in the past that students and their parents can be expected to howl at the prospect of another boost in prices to obtain a higher education.

Compounding the situation is that the penetrating gaze of some members of Congress have been cast recently on the trend of ever higher tuitions. These individuals wonder if there is some correlation between the provision of greater amounts of student assistance and subsequent efforts to raise tuition.

Recognizing that deans and directors at schools of allied health are finding it necessary to enhance the revenue side of the ledger, the ASAHP Board of Directors has approved devoting a significant portion of the Association's *2004 Spring Meeting* in Washington, DC to the topic of fund development. Earlier this year, the Council For Advancement And Support Of Education (CASE) was contacted to obtain the names of individuals to conduct a fund development workshop.

The two persons selected for this purpose are **Deborah Blackmore Abrams** and **Donald Gray**. A part of her experience includes being the first woman to be Director of Planned Giving at an Ivy League School. She also was the VP and Manager of the Charitable Trust Group at Boston's State Street Bank & Trust Company. He is the Vice President, Principal Gifts & Training, at the University of Wisconsin Foundation in Madison. In addition, he has served as Senior Director of Development at that institution's School of Business.

The all-day session will occur on **March 19**. Upon completion, it will be followed immediately by a meeting of fund development officers from member institutions. Deans and directors who do not have the luxury of having this kind of staff in their schools are encouraged to attend.

An expected outcome is that the group will continue to meet at future ASAHP Annual Conferences and Spring Meetings. Doing so will provide an ongoing forum for the exchange of ideas. Participants will be able to serve as a resource for one another.

The rest of the *Winter Meeting Program* will deal with government relations. Arrangements are being made to provide a single day registration fee for development personnel who plan to be present only on March 19.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By David D. Gale, ASAHP President



Readers of this newsletter and of the biweekly ASAHP UPDATE that is sent electronically to deans and directors at member institutions are aware that the Association recently created a Council of Deans. Recognizing that the decision to do so may have led to some puzzlement, I'd like to explain the rationale behind this action.

One of our real strengths is our size, which for all intents and purposes is relatively small. Whenever we gather at an Annual Conference or a Spring Meeting, just about every person there recognizes almost every other participant either by name or by sight. Contrast that degree of familiarity with attendance at an annual conference of a group such as the American Public Health Association where it is not uncommon to be among as many as 12,000 other persons. Because of the hugeness of those gatherings and the cavernous halls necessary to accommodate such a large crowd, being there is not unlike walking through Grand Central Station in New York City during the rush hour.

Big organizations offer much more in the way of publications, conference presentations, exhibit hall items, and benefits such as life insurance policies. The downside is that unless an individual member holds office in the Association or happens to be quite skilled in figuring out how to access its power structure, then it is exceedingly difficult to have single voices heard.

ASAHP is the exact opposite. Like other Presidents of this Association who have served before me, I continue to be amazed at how often I am in a position to hear the opinions of rank-and-file members. I'm sure that my fellow Directors on the Board would view matters in a similar light. As beneficial as these contacts are, however, we still feel to a need to go about it more systematically to learn the views of our members regarding how to improve the organization's effectiveness.

Therein lies the reason why we have taken two important steps to ensure that our governance structure becomes optimally responsive to key portions of the membership. The Deans Council will enable us to learn of the unique perceptions of this sector and place us in a stronger position to undertake activities that will address such concerns. Prior to the start of the 2004 Spring Meeting, that group will meet as a means of initiating the dialogue. A parallel development is that the Presidents of the various regional deans' groups will be invited to meet with the ASAHP President and Executive Director during our Spring Meeting and Annual Conference each year. Opening up these lines of communication in a more formal way should prove to be advantageous to all parties concerned.

Meanwhile, the Associate and Assistant Deans Group will continue to hold its own sessions and be in a position to make recommendations to the Board. Currently on the drawing boards is the possibility of the formation of a group of development officers from member institutions. An outsider might view all these entities as being somewhat unusual for an organization that is not especially large. The point to be made is that these various steps are being taken to enhance the likelihood that every voice is heard and acknowledged appropriately.





APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Once again, Congress has proven unable to complete work on 13 appropriations bills in time for the start of a new fiscal year on October 1. Chief among the perennial obstacles is funding for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies, the so-called Labor-HHS bill.

Apart from disputes over the amount of money to spend, other barriers to agreement always seem to manifest themselves such as the topic of abortion. This time around, the dispute involved overtime pay in the portion of the legislation affecting the Department of Labor.

As of this writing, House and Senate negotiators were continuing to work on the omnibus spending package. The plan appears to be to use the FY 2004 agriculture appropriations bill (H.R. 2673) as the vehicle for the \$328 billion package that will include a total of seven spending bills, including Labor-HHS (H.R. 2660) and VA-HUD (H.R. 2861).

Appropriators want to add funding to the omnibus, including \$1.2 billion for education, \$1.3 billion for veterans' medical care and \$1 billion for election overhaul. The additional funding reportedly would be offset by rescinding unspent FY 2003 supplemental appropriations and imposing an across-the-board cut on FY 2004 spending.

The House on November 20 approved a continuing resolution or CR (H.J.Res. 78) that would keep the federal government operating through November 23. The Senate, which was not expected to hold votes that day, amended the CR by voice vote to extend it through November 24. The current CR (P.L. 108-107) expired on November 21. A stopgap spending law then was enacted that will enable the government to keep operating until January 31, 2004. It remains unclear whether the omnibus bill will clear in December.

Whenever the two chambers produce different versions of a bill, a conference committee is convened to reach an agreement. The product that results then is sent back to each legislative body for a final vote before it goes to the President for his signature. The fate of the Labor-HHS conference rested on a dispute between Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-PA), who pushed a Senate proposal to block the Labor Department from implementing controversial overtime regulations, and White House personnel, who opposed the provision. A formal conference agreement probably will not be filed until December 1 or even later. That prospect means some alterations still may occur.

GRANTS LINK

Readers with an interest in grants may find it helpful to refer to a site on the Web known as "Federal Commons." Developed in partnership with The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), the link covers several major grant categories, including the topic of health. The site may be accessed on the Web at <http://www.cfda.gov/public/granttopics.asp>.

POSTER SESSION WINNERS

Once again, the recent ASAHP Annual Conference featured a *Poster Session* that was combined with a reception. Each year, the entries become more sophisticated both from the standpoint of content and appearance. They are arranged in the following three categories: research, education, and practice.

A team of judges is chosen to assess the quality of the presentations in each group of posters. That process was coordinated by Board of Directors Member **David M. Gibson**, Dean of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Under his capable direction, judges selected the following as winners. Each recipient was given a cash prize on October 24 at the Awards Luncheon.

Research: *Recruitment: It's Never Too Early To Start*, submitted by **Sophie K. Thompson** of Old Dominion University.

Education: *Potential Students Are Just A Click Away: Building Credibility And Relationships Through Academic Web Sites* submitted by **Kathy Gatten** of the Medical University Of South Carolina.

Practice: *Use Of Various Computer Technologies For Evaluation And Documenting Clinical Competencies In An Allied Health Care Program*, submitted by **Charles Hall** and **Juan J. Reyes** of the Medical College of Georgia.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Community Health Scholars Program (CHSP) is a post-doctoral fellowship opportunity designed to meet the growing needs of schools of public health and other health professions for faculty with community competency. The CHSP post-doctoral program enables scholars to develop and enhance skills in working with communities and engaging in participatory community-based research at institutions where these skills are present.

The fellowship includes a two year funding award of \$50,000 per year, including fringe benefits; a research fund of \$10,000 per scholar per year; a \$5000 research fund to take to the next academic position; and beginning with the 2004 cohort, a moving allowance of up to \$3000. For more information, go to the following site on the World Wide Web: <http://www.sph.umich.edu/chsp/index.shtml>.

NIH GRANT APPLICATIONS TO GO PAPERLESS

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is testing an online grants application process. An initial batch of 14 "experimental; e-grants" was sent by a few volunteer institutions last month. The intent is to add more institutions so that within one year, approximately 37,000 basic R01 grant applications will be submitted in a paperless format. This development will bring to a close the typical frenzied ritual of mailing stacks of paper copies to NIH by investigators, a group that should heave a sigh of relief upon completion of the transition.

ASAHP FELLOWS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE

The Association's Board of Directors decided to accord more recognition to ASAHP Fellows by honoring them at a breakfast two years ago at the Annual Conference in Norfolk, VA. That event later was converted to a luncheon at conferences in San Diego in 2002 and in Toronto last month. Fellows are selected on the basis of having made significant contributions to their own respective professions, to allied health as a whole, and to ASAHP in particular. Now that they gather on these occasions, it is apparent that these individuals are in a position to make substantial contributions to benefit the welfare of the Association.

The Board also agreed recently that ASAHP's Immediate Past President should coordinate any activities performed by this distinguished group. For the coming year, that assignment belongs to **Stephen L. Wilson** (Dean, The Ohio State University). Next October, he will be succeeded by current President **David D. Gale**.

The group will convene next at the time of the 2004 Spring Meeting in March. Topics on the agenda will include how to increase the corpus of the *Scholarship of Excellence Fund*, a mechanism for providing financial assistance to students in member institutions; refining the criteria for selecting Fellows; and recommending to the Board the names of persons to be considered as Fellows in the future.

MAXIMIZING ROI

Entitled "Maximizing Your ROI: Collaboration and Quality in Distance Learning," the Proceedings of the *10th Congress of Health Professions Educators* recently was published by the Association of Academic Health Centers (AHC). A series of papers was presented at the Congress on June 2-3, 2003 that examined how to maximize the benefits of distance learning for faculty and students alike. Copies may be obtained for \$15 each (plus \$5 shipping/handling) from the AHC by calling Tel: 202-265-9600.

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 16, 2004 - Deadline for **Leadership Development** Applications
- March 18 - 20, 2004 - **Spring Meeting** - Washington, D.C.
- March 2004 - **Secretary's Award** entries submitted to Deans'/Directors' Offices
- April 1, 2004 - Deadline for **Outstanding Research Award** applications.
- April 14-17, 2004 - **Session I Leadership Development Program**
- April 2004 - **Secretary's Award** entries submitted to ASAHP.
- April 15, 2004 - Deadline for **New Investigators Award** applications.
- May 15, 2004 - Deadline for **Scholarship of Excellence** applications.
- June 2004 - **Secretary's Award** winners announced
- June 1, 2004 - Deadline for **Outstanding Health Educators Award** applications.
- September - November 2004 - **Institutional Profile Survey** - <http://asahp.uams.edu>
- September 14-18, 2004 - **Session II Leadership Development Program**

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN TRENDS

The Association's Board of Directors approved a motion to have ASAHP leave the management firm of Smith-Bucklin and Associates and become a free-standing, independent organization once again. Management services were provided by that firm during a 10-year period. The Board also agreed that **Thomas W. Elwood** would be the new Executive Director.

The newsletter reported that President William Clinton presented a 1,336-page proposal to Congress that embodied his goal of restructuring the nation's health care system. Each copy of the 240,000-word tome weighed in at 5¾ pounds.

FIVE YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN TRENDS

The Board of Directors established an awards program to honor *Outstanding Allied Health Educators*, *Outstanding Researchers*, and *New Investigators* at member institutions. Each award includes a cash prize and funds to support travel to an ASAHP Annual Conference.

The *Outstanding Membership Award* was presented to Dean **Ronald H. Winters** of the College of Health Related Professions at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The award was in recognition of his work on the Association's annual Institution Profile Survey in addition to other significant contributions he has made to allied health over the years.

2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2004 ASAHP Annual Conference will be held in Tampa, FL on October 20-23. The event will be conducted in conjunction with the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2), which will have its annual conference that same week in a hotel across the street.

The focus of the conference will be on *Opportunities for Collaboration*. Preliminary plans call for having a panel discussion involving members from both organizations on topics such as clinical education, faculty sharing, grant writing/sharing, research, and transition of students from two-year to four-year institutions. The topics selected also could serve as a basis for a series of roundtable discussions involving members of the two groups.

Two years ago at the ASAHP Annual Conference in Norfolk, similar roundtable discussions were held involving members of both organizations. Subsequently, a document entitled "ASAHP and NN2: Confronting Allied Health Education Challenges in the 21st Century" was published. It is anticipated that something will be done along similar lines following completion of the 2004 conferences.

A dinner cruise on one of the evenings will be another shared event. An additional possibility is that an Oxford-style debate on a topic of mutual interest will occur with ASAHP and NN2 members serving on both the team in favor of the proposition and the team in opposition.

Two members of the Annual Conference Planning Committee serve as liaisons to the NN2 planning group. They are **David M. Gibson** (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey) and **Cynthia Hughes Harris** (Florida A&M University).

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Profile Of New Health Foundations

An organization called *Grantmakers in Health* (GIH) has identified over 165 new foundations that have been formed from health care transactions. A report updates data on the foundations surveyed over the last six years and includes data on foundations that have formed since the last survey or that were not in a position to respond to earlier surveys. It provides the most complete snapshot yet of the characteristics and priorities of this group of health foundations. Foundation profiles are included. The report is on the Web at http://www.gih.org/usr_doc/2003_Profile_Report.pdf.

2004 Presidential Candidates' Health Care Reform Proposals

The Commonwealth Fund has updated its coverage of the *2004 Presidential Candidates' Health Care Reform Proposals* to reflect Gen. Wesley Clark's health care plan that was released on October 28. Clark joined six other Democratic presidential candidates and President Bush in proposing to extend health insurance to millions of Americans. This report reviews the candidates' strategies and compares numbers of uninsured covered under each plan and estimated costs. The report may be accessed on the Web at http://www.cmwf.org/programs/insurance/collins_reformagenda_671.pdf.

Transforming The Work Environment Of Nurses

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has issued a new report entitled, *Keeping Patients Safe: Transforming the Work Environment of Nurses*. The document identifies solutions to problems in hospital, nursing home, and other health care organization work environments that threaten patient safety through their effect on nursing care. A companion to the Institute of Medicine's earlier patient safety report, *To Err is Human*, the report puts forth a blueprint of actions that all health care organizations which rely on nurses should take. A copy may be accessed from the Web at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309090679/html/>.

Relationship Between Technology And Health Care Spending

A report released by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association and the journal *Health Affairs* links increases in the availability of several new medical technologies to substantially higher spending. The study looked at the use of new technologies in diagnostic imaging, cardiac care, cancer care and newborn care. It found that in some cases, some technologies add millions of dollars per year to health care costs. The authors said technology-driven increases in spending are reason for concern since many in the health care arena believe that higher spending does not always produce higher quality. The report may be accessed from the Web at http://www.healthaffairs.org/WebExclusives/Baker_Web_Excl_110503.htm.

GAO Report On The Physician Workforce

Through a variety of programs, the federal government supports the training of physicians and encourages physicians to work in underserved areas or pursue primary care specialties. Staff at the General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of Congress, was asked to provide information on the physician supply. Between 1991 and 2001, all statewide nonmetropolitan areas and 301 out of the 318 metropolitan areas gained physicians per 100,000 persons. Of those 17 metropolitan areas that experienced declines in the number of physicians per 100,000 persons, only two had fewer total physicians in 2001 than 1991. The report may be accessed by clicking <http://www.gao.gov/>. At the site, in succession click GAO Reports, Today's Reports, and November 3, 2003.

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

ASAHP is one of several national organizations that has been invited to nominate an individual for a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Health Care Policy Fellowship. Individuals who are selected for this prestigious offering will be provided with a six-month intensive curriculum, including three weeks of on-site training in the development and implementation of primary health care policy, programs, and legislation. The training component will be divided into sessions on March 28-April 2, 2004, May 16-21, 2004, and June 27-July 2, 2004. Approximately 30 persons will be selected to participate.

The Association has been fortunate to have the following members chosen in recent years:

Harry Douglas (Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science)

Diane Roberts (Indiana University-East)

Cheryl Samuels (Old Dominion University)

John Snyder (The Ohio State University, Lima)

Deans and Directors at member institutions will be asked to assist in making nominations. The deadline for submitting the name of one nominee from ASAHP is **December 19, 2003**.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

ASAHP members will have an opportunity to participate in the *2004 Leadership Development Program* that is presented in cooperation with the Health Professions Network (HPN) and the National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges (NN2). The program is funded to a major extent through a contract provided by the Bureau of Health Professions of the U.S. Public Health Service. The Association also helps to subsidize the costs of participation by its members by providing funds for travel and lodging, in addition to in-kind contributions in the form of time and effort by ASAHP staff.

Individuals who are accepted for next year's program will have to be in Washington, DC for meetings on **April 14-17** and **September 14-18**. Selected participants will train in the areas of practice, education, and research to develop their leadership abilities. During those sessions, they will define the qualities of leadership, learn problem-solving and decision-making skills, and discuss the attributes necessary to lead in a time of transition. In addition, they will discuss regulatory and legislative issues and learn effective ways of working with governmental agencies and elected representatives. The period between April and September will be devoted to group projects.

A total of 8-10 persons will be chosen to represent ASAHP in the program. In the past, several participants subsequently either were elected to office in this Association or became deans at schools of allied health.

