ASAHP BOARD MEETING

The Association’s Board of Directors met in Washington, DC on June 3-4. The following actions were among those taken:

- Board Members gave reports of their meetings on Capitol Hill and at the Department of Education. The latter involved a discussion of state authorization rules that affect online education and clinical training placements.

- ASAHP’s Strategic Plan was discussed after small groups identified SWOT priorities.

- A motion unanimously was approved to establish a project fund for member requests/application for the next fiscal year.

- Approved forming a task force to arrive at a cleaner definition of the term allied health.

- Agreed to form a team to discuss a consortium of U.S. schools to develop training and educational infrastructure in other countries.

- Agreed that the investment portfolio’s ratio of 60 percent equities/40 percent fixed income will remain in place until the corpus increases to a higher overall value.

- Approved nominating Dean Celia Hooper to serve on the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP).

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The data collection period for ASAHP’s next iteration of the survey will open in early September and close by the end of November. Now is a good time to determine who will be assigned responsibility for collecting data. A User’s Guide is online at www.asahp.org in the section of the homepage labeled “Members.” It has proved to be immensely valuable for newcomers to the study.

2015 ASAHP ELECTION

The Association’s Nominations and Elections Committee has prepared the following slate of candidates for the 2015 ASAHP election:

Secretary (two-year term):
- Sharon Stewart (University of Kentucky)
- Ruth Welborn (Texas State University)

Board of Directors (three-year term)
- Barry Eckert (Long Island University-Brooklyn)
- Cynthia Hughes Harris (Florida A&M University)
- Kenneth Johnson (Weber State University)
- Peggy Valentine (Winston-Salem State University)

Nominations & Elections Committee (two-year term)
- Andrew Butler (Georgia State University)
- Mitch Cordova (Florida Gulf Coast University)
- Carolyn Giordano (Thomas Jefferson University)
- Cesarina Thompson (American International College)

The election will be conducted electronically between mid-July and mid-August. Membership dues must be paid by September 1, 2015 in order for one’s vote to be included in the final tally.

NECROLOGY

Frederick W. Pairent, who served as Dean of the College of Allied Health Professions (now the College of Health Sciences) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1983 until his retirement in 1998, died on June 7. The holder of a PhD in biochemistry from Loyola University, Stritch School of Medicine, he served ASAHP in various capacities for many years. His College hosted the Association’s 1995 Annual Conference, which was held in Milwaukee. In 1998, he established an ASAHP Archive at the university’s library in that same city. In 2002, the ASAHP Board approved naming the Archive after him. Until 2004, he regularly attended both the ASAHP Spring Meeting and the Annual Conference each year where he took many photographs that eventually graced both the pages of the newsletter TRENDS and the Association’s Annual Report.
STATE HIGHER EDUCATION SPENDING

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on June 3 on the topic of ensuring college affordability, focusing on the continuing pattern of state disinvestment in higher education and the direct impact it has on college costs, student debt loads, and access to higher education. Some proposals under consideration are for the federal government to give states incentives to increase higher education funding, create a minimum funding level that states must stay above, and free up funds for higher education by reducing states’ spending requirements in other areas.

Additional steps Congress might consider to help reduce student over-borrowing are to: make it simpler to repay loans, stop discouraging colleges from counseling students about how much they should borrow, help students complete their degree more quickly, require colleges to share in the risk of lending to students, and have Congress evaluate its role in increasing college costs. The hearing was the fourth in a series on the Higher Education Act, which expires at the end of FY 2015 unless Congress acts beforehand.


ADVISORY COUNCIL OPENINGS


WORKFORCE CENTER FUNDING

HRSA is soliciting applications for the Health Workforce Research Center (HWRC) program, which is designed to support rigorous, policy-oriented data collection, analysis, and research projects that can enhance the government’s understanding of emerging issues and trends in the health care workforce. Higher education institutions are among the entities that are eligible to apply. The application deadline is July 23, 2015. Additional information can be accessed at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/viewopportunity.html?oppId=277123.

MEDICARE’S CHALLENGES

Allied health professionals, along with members of other health professions, will be affected by the increase in the segment of the population age 65 and older. A report prepared for a June 5, 2015, conference—Strengthening Medicare for 2030—hosted by the University of Southern California Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics and the Center for Health Policy at the Brooking Institution explored the changing demographics, health care needs, medical technology costs, and financial resources available to Medicare beneficiaries.

Baby boomers who began turning age 65 and aging into Medicare in 2011 will swell the estimated U.S. population aged 65 or older from 39.7 million to 67.0 million by 2030. Medicare beneficiaries with three or more chronic conditions will jump sharply between 2010 and 2030, increasing from 26 percent to 40 percent.

A typical beneficiary in 2010 was estimated to have total lifetime Medicare spending worth $131,000. Because of rising life expectancy, higher prevalence of chronic conditions, and medical cost growth, total lifetime Medicare spending for a typical 65-year-old beneficiary will reach an estimated $223,000 in 2030, going overall from $507 billion to more than $1.2 trillion in 2030. This divergence in trends highlights the dramatic fiscal impact of the huge baby-boomer cohort aging into Medicare between 2011 and 2029.


ACADEMIC INNOVATION INCUBATORS

Huron and the American Council on Education (ACE) conducted research to gauge some of the current thinking and practices of select institutions on the best way to leverage academic innovation to improve student success, strengthen learning outcomes, and enhance the experience of a postsecondary education. A result is a paper that describes model design and select evidence to support consideration of institutional strategy around the management of strategic initiatives and academic innovation.