ASAHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Association’s Board of Directors had a conference call on January 31, 2019. The following actions were among those taken:

➢ The Minutes of a conference call meeting on November 14, 2018 were reviewed and approved as corrected.

➢ Substituting for ASAHP Treasurer Gregory Frazer, Executive Director John Colbert provided a review of the Treasurer’s Report with updated amounts of holdings at the investment firm and the bank lockbox.

➢ President Susan Hanrahan reported that the summer Board meeting will be held in Minneapolis on June 19-20 and provided an update on the Institutional Profile Survey (IPS). Some terminology changes were discussed.

➢ Executive Director John Colbert reviewed Higher Logic, a modern version of a “listserv,” as a means for deans to communicate privately among themselves. This resource was made available to members on February 12.

➢ A review was conducted of a proposal by ASAHP’s IP Subcommittee for an Industry-Academic Polarity Thinking Assessment to gain a better understanding of how IPE and IPCP can be leveraged to achieve efficient, effective, and integrated care. An aim is to investigate the extent to which the interprofessional education and collaborative practice polarity is managed among ASAHP member organizations from education and practice environments that interface for the purposes of advancing IPE and IPCP. The proposal entails distributing a survey simultaneously to appropriate stakeholders and holding two meetings, working in conjunction with industry to discuss how to implement or strengthen a practice-education partnership.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

The inaugural version of the reformatted ASAHP Institutional Profile Survey was launched on February 6, 2019. This instrument will collect information on important variables of considerable value to the membership. The findings will be reported in aggregate form to ensure that individual data are protected.

The profile consists of the following segments:

1) general college/school information
2) specific program information broken out by discipline (degree levels will be captured)
3) interprofessional education and practice broken out by program
4) research by college
5) clinical instruction by college
6) application trends by college
7) global initiatives and
8) faculty information

If history is to serve as an adequate guide, many deans over the years claimed that information about faculty was the most prized aspect of the survey. The new study furnishes an opportunity to generate the following kinds of data: total base salary, excluding fringe benefits; percentage of salary provided through clinical practice participation; years of service at current institution; years of academic experience with a faculty appointment; extent of contract in number of months; total full-time equivalency status; tenure/tenure track status; percent effort in clinical care, teaching/instruction, scholarship/research; administration/service; academic rank; highest degree level; gender; ethnicity, age; and administrative title.

The timeframe for developing responses is for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. An attractive component is that the survey can be worked on incrementally. Data can be entered, saved, and more amounts can be added at later times. The survey will remain open through March 15, 2019.

The record for previous iterations of the survey was participation by 95 member schools in 2005. A worthy objective in 2019 is to exceed this amount.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

New data from the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) reveal that for the second consecutive year, international graduate application and first-time enrollment rates declined at U.S. universities. For Fall 2018, the final application counts from prospective international students declined by 4%, while the first-time enrollment of international graduate students declined by 1%.

Across broad fields of study, in mathematics and computer sciences (6%) and health sciences (5%), international graduate applications increased between Fall 2017 and Fall 2018. By contrast, engineering (-16%), physical & earth sciences (-9%), and business (-8%) experienced decreases in international graduate applications during this period. Despite the decline in first-time enrollment over the past year, engineering (25%) still had the largest share of international graduate applications in Fall 2018.

Chinese nationals constituted the largest share (36%) of international graduate students with more than 246,000 individuals enrolled in Fall 2018 at institutions participating in the survey. Chinese graduate students also make up the largest percentage (39%) of international master’s and certificate students. The CGS report can be obtained at https://www.cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Intl_Survey_Report_Fall2018.pdf.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

According to the Congressional Research Service (CRS), counts of students who borrowed federal student loans, average amounts borrowed, and average cumulative federal student loan debt all have increased substantially in recent years. Expanded repayment flexibilities have allowed borrowers to make smaller payments over extended periods of time. Year after year, more student loan dollars are disbursed than are repaid, resulting in an expanding federal loan portfolio. Nearly 43 million individuals, one in six adult Americans, have federal student loan debt, and the federal student loan portfolio now exceeds $1.4 trillion.

Primary federal student loan programs are authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). U.S. Department of Education data show that from academic year (AY) 1995-1996 to AY 2011-2012, the number of undergraduate students borrowing Title IV loans increased from 4.1 million to nearly 9.3 million, while the average annual amount borrowed increased by 71%, from $3,800 to $6,500. The report can be obtained at https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF10158.pdf.

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

During a presentation at the American Enterprise Institute on February 4, 2019 in Washington, DC, Lamar Alexander, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor & Pensions, expressed a preference for having federal student loan borrowers’ monthly payments automatically deducted from their paychecks. Similar to most pronouncements by elected officials on Capitol Hill, however, it failed to be greeted with universal approbation.

An example of opposition can be gleaned from a new report by the National Consumer Law Center.

Conceding that the student loan repayment system is in desperate need of simplification and overhaul, it is believed that forced automatic payroll withholding would not be a viable remedy. This view is based on a consideration that of the several million student loan borrowers in the United States, almost nine million of them, amounting to nearly 20% of the overall group, are in default on their federal student loans.

Given these circumstances, any student loan repayment program must be flexible enough to take into account not only the individual circumstances of these borrowers, but also how their financial situation may change from month to month with fluctuations in income and expenses. A risk is that in some months, a fixed withholding amount coupled with unusual expenses may deprive a family of having enough income for heat, rent, food, or medicine.


HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Eleven years have elapsed since the Higher Education Act (HEA) last was reauthorized. While it is possible reauthorization might occur in 2019, that outcome is not fully assured. Dealing with matters involving student loans will be an essential ingredient, along with key ramifications of accreditation. Both the ASAHP UPDATE and the Association’s newsletter TRENDS will keep readers apprised of HEA developments.

ASAHP ANNUAL REPORT

The 2018 Annual Report is awaiting completion. The results of the most recent yearly audit still need to be included for the document to be ready for distribution. The publication will contain reports by the ASAHP President and Treasurer, along with descriptions of activities carried out by members of various committees and task forces.