ASAHP BOARD ACTIONS

The Association’s Board of Directors had a conference call on October 15, 2020. The following actions were among those taken:

- The Minutes of a conference call on July 16, 2020 were reviewed and approved as written.

- President Phyllis King reported that ASAHP has had an active virtual presence, with presentations conducted every two weeks. These offerings enjoyed strong attendance. Sessions were recorded and are available on the Web on timely topics, such as diversity, equity, inclusion, and telehealth.

- Treasurer Gregory Frazer discussed the health of financial accounts in light of COVID and the markets. ASAHP, with conservative management by the Board, is in a strong position going forward both with investments and holdings in a bank lockbox account.

- An update on the Global Rehabilitation Worker Initiative Update was provided by Past President Richard Oliver and Julia To Dutka of CGFNS. A plan is to have CGFNS provide the certification as a separate body and ASAHP furnish the educational units.

- An update was provided on the work of Strategic Planning Committees’ endeavor with an outside consultant. As all committees make progress, the need for a consultant is declining. Committees are ready to fully transition/take over work. A recommendation was made to terminate the contract at the end of November.

- The Board discussed the Journal of Allied Health from the standpoint of succession planning, such as development of an assistant/associate editor. A committee that developed this proposal could serve as a search committee. The discussion included whether the position should be voluntary or paid and a possible timeline.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE SURVEY

Year Three of the reformatted Institutional Profile Survey is open for data to be submitted in 2020 and for the full release of reports, including several new documents, for participating institutions. The study is for each institution’s 2019-2020 year (FY 2020). Specific dates do not matter. The closing date for providing data is January 31, 2021.

Survey results will be reported in aggregate form so that individual data are protected. The report is divided into three sections—all institutions, academic health centers, and four-year institutions—and also by regional accreditation body. The survey/profile is broken into eight segments. Many questions have drop down boxes for convenience when responding. It will be easy to work on portions of the survey, save data being added, and return to the study later.

Single login per institution has been developed and each dean/member representative has been provided with the necessary login information. Any questions regarding the survey should be directed to Kristen Truong at kristen@asaahp.org.

NEW ASAHP BOOK

The Association is announcing the availability of a new book entitled, From Fish To Philosopher: Allied Health Editorials 2008-2020 in both print, E-book, and podcast versions based on a select group of 40 editorials published in the Journal of Allied Health during those years. The E-book version can be obtained at no charge at https://www.asaahp.org/asaahpbooks using the Discount Code JAH2020. All proceeds from sales will benefit the ASAHP Scholarship of Excellence Fund that provides assistance to students at member schools.

UPCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

December 2, 1:00-2:00 PM ET ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.

December 16, 1:00-2:00 PM ET ASAHP Live Virtual Series – Curriculum Innovations Related to COVID-19.

More information can be obtained at https://www.asaahp.org/events.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE SURVEY

The Association’s Education Committee sent a survey to the membership on November 19, 2020. It is designed to assist that group in providing useful educational services to the ASAHP membership. The Committee has been charged with providing members with services in the following areas: Advocacy, Consulting, Online Education, and a Speaker’s Bureau.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

ASAHP’s Leadership Development Committee is looking for experienced deans and senior administrators who each would be willing to serve as a 1:1 peer coach/mentor for 1) individuals in the role of Associate/Assistant Dean positions at their institutions as they prepare to seek promotion opportunities, and 2) new Deans who would like to engage in coaching and/or mentorship to facilitate success in their new role. Expansion of leadership development opportunities is an area of focus in the newly created ASAHP Strategic Plan. The Leadership Committee is working on developing a structure to facilitate a virtual program specifically designed to address these needs.

Individuals willing to serve as a mentor/coach are requested to submit contact information to Kristen Truong at kristen@asahp.org by December 14, 2020. A committee member will provide follow up after January 1, 2021.

UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT DROP

Undergraduate enrollment continues to be down across higher education, according to the latest National Student Clearinghouse report that was released on November 12, 2020. The research center has been studying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on enrollment in higher education, producing a new report almost every month this fall. With 76% of colleges reporting data, undergraduate enrollment has been revised downward. It is running 4.4% below last year’s level and for-profit four-year colleges are showing slight drops. Graduate enrollment is up 2.9% and overall postsecondary enrollment is down 3.3% compared to the same time last year.

The decline in freshman enrollment has been revised upward from last month’s reporting of a 16.1% drop, to a still substantial decline of 13.0%. Community colleges are showing the steepest decline (-18.9%), almost 19 times the pre-pandemic loss rate, followed by public four-year colleges (-10.5%) and private nonprofit four-year institutions (-8.5%). The report can be obtained at https://nscresearchcenter.org/stay-informed/.

PCORI AND HHS RESULTS

A report issued from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in November 2020 found that the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), a federally funded nonprofit corporation, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have continued to perform comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER) activities required by law. CER evaluates and compares health outcomes, risks, and benefits of medical treatments, services, or items.

PCORI and HHS are required to fund CER and disseminate and facilitate the implementation of CER findings. Data are provided in the report on fund allocations. The document can be obtained at https://www.gao.gov/assets/720/710713.pdf.

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Approximately 53 million individuals in the U.S. provide essential daily care for loved ones. Yet, they too often are treated as secondary members of the care team. A RAND Corp study examines major barriers that prevent caregivers from coordinating with formal health care providers and how addressing barriers can help boost quality of care and improve quality of life.

The authors identify promising policy directions and provide recommendations for next steps in assessing, developing, and implementing policies to improve the integration of family caregivers into care teams. Family caregivers have direct access to loved ones, enabling them to monitor health changes on a more-regular basis than is possible by formal health care providers. The report can be obtained at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA105-1.html.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The firm Eduvnetures reports that well over half of their partner institutions indicate that their applications are trailing behind last year’s benchmarks. A study of high school seniors across the U.S. was done in late October to see how the college application process was going to provide insight into how colleges can make the process more successful. The report can be obtained at https://encoura.org/three-ways-to-improve-the-2020-college-application-process/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTjIjIjoiU5UzZVQMIpTvOTriNChsInQOiJMTENSbzRHUmFUHBTVTY5aXEtS2F6QVFBMERsaiLcFo4VVCQGpKR2h6K3VzMXhyrINkamQ0NWNUSGpyV01uNVMy4Y2Z3b0RZUDNUXC8zDBAHNg3RF4IRU0jaityVXlxaWhz2RDYVMzNKcThcL1paVVg3YYwvQIlfWURiTWdtT3IYTVyJ9.