



AFMC

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
L'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada

The AFMC Resource Group on Student Affairs

Report to the AFMC Board of Directors

May 2011

AFMC Resource Group on Student Affairs Summary of Activities to Date May 2010-April 2011

Since last October, the AFMC Resource Group on Student Affairs has disbanded its Google Group and created a Student Affairs community on the Canadian Health Education Commons (CHEC). As of April 2011, 12/17 Canadian medical schools are represented in this community. Several of the members had considerable difficulty in posting resource materials and using the Commons to communicate. As a result, staff from the CHEC will be giving a presentation to the members at the May 07, 2011 meeting to facilitate the intended goal of sharing of resources and archiving of discussion items for later reference. Difficulties with using the CHEC to communicate among the members have created a serious barrier to communication between the group's members.

The chair of the AFMC Resource Group on Student Affairs, Dr. Melissa Forgie, was invited to join the AAMC GSA Steering Committee and has attended both meetings which have occurred since May 2011. She gave a presentation to the committee on Student Affairs in Canada. The fact that most Student Affairs Deans/Directors in Canada do not complete the MSPR/MSPE yet this is not the case in the USA was a subject of lengthy discussion. This is felt to be a potential conflict of interest and result in non compliance for the standard MS 27A for some USA schools and might impede some USA students from seeking help from Student Affairs. The members of the AAMC Steering Committee for the Group on Student Affairs are interested in joining this community as well and sharing resources as well as there is considerable overlap in issues facing Student Affairs between US and Canadian Medical Schools.

The members were surveyed in April 2011. The results of the survey will be provided to the members and will replace the Cross-Country check presentation at the meeting in May, 2011. The following represents a summary of the survey:

The survey response rate was 88 percent.

Population served: 100% of the Student Affairs offices serve undergraduate medical students, 63% serve post-graduate students and 50% serve graduate students. 50% serve other students in the health sciences.

Services provided: 87% provide personal counseling, 80% provide financial counseling, 93% provide career counseling, and 93% provide wellness counseling. 43% had counseling services dedicated to Student Affairs.

Resources: 75% stated they did not feel their office was adequately resourced and 56% of the Student Affairs Deans/Directors stated they did not have adequate time to carry out their mandate. 56% of the Student Affairs Deans/Directors stated they felt they were adequately remunerated for their role.

A planned teleconference meeting in between to the annual AFMC meetings did not occur as it proved to be very difficult to get members to join a discussion group to plan this event. The Ontario Chapter of Student Affairs (McMaster, NOSM, Queen's, Western, u of Toronto, uOttawa) met in October. This regional meeting proved to be of value to the members and plans for continuing regular biannual meetings are in progress.

Items for discussion: The members most wished to discuss financial planning/wellness. Several of the members expressed concern about their ability to carry out a financial planning curriculum in the context of new policies severing ties to industry/for profit financial agencies. 100% of the Student Affairs who responded to the survey stated their office was involved in addressing professionalism concerns and many of the members wished to discuss the role of Student Affairs in this area. As has occurred in the past, challenging accommodations cases will be presented in group format.

A proposal to the members to present annual reports on each center's Student Affairs activities as they relate to the associated LCME accreditation standards MS 18, 19, 24, 24 and 26-28 will be made by the chair at the annual meeting on May 07, 2011.

The current chair of the AFMC Resource Group on Student Affairs will be resigning as of May 31, 2011. A new chair will be selected at the annual meeting on May 07, 2011.

The group will be meeting on May 07, 2011. An updated report will be provided to the Board at the May 08, 2011 meeting.