Chair Report for the Academic Sections Coordinating Committee

Bruce A. Berger
School of Pharmacy, Auburn University AL 36849-5501

The following were activities of the Committee for the past year.

New Investigator Awards

The committee awarded 18 New Investigator Awards during its November meeting. In this regard, discussion concerned individuals applying for NIP awards who have been in non-academic positions for many years, have established research programs (funding), yet are now in their first academic position. The committee believes that this situation is not consistent with the spirit of the NIP: that is, to assist new faculty members in starting their research programs. While no one on the committee wanted to prevent any individuals who are in the first five years of the first academic appointment from applying, the Committee wants to give priority to individuals who are truly getting their research program under-way. Therefore, a motion was passed recommending that the following statement be added to the application materials:

Priority will be given to new investigators who are in the process of establishing a research program.

Teachers Seminar

There was widespread agreement that the Seminar should focus on interdisciplinary teaching. A proposal was put forth outlining such a seminar. In addition, the University of New Mexico’s Medical School model was also considered. Concern was expressed that when non-pharmacy experts are brought in, they sometimes do not relate the material back to problems in pharmacy. In addition, concern was expressed that New Mexico’s model may be so far ahead of where pharmacy is that by the end of the Seminar we still might not know how to get there. Therefore, a recommended structure for the seminar is: (i) presentation by outside experts, (ii) examples from pharmacy, and (iii) breakout groups.

The committee expressed a desire to have individuals in

1 Committee members: Bruce A. Berger, (Auburn), Robert W. Bennett (Purdue), Robert B. Greenwood (Campbell), Irene Petzinger Kaplan (Albany), Carl J. Malanga (West Virginia), Bonnie L. Svarstad (Wisconsin), Barbara G. Wells (Samford), and Robert A. Wiley (Iowa).
pharmacy present case studies along with New Mexico’s program. An ad hoc committee was formed to assist staff with the deliberations. As a result, a tentative program summary (Appendix A) resulted from this committee’s discussions with the New Mexico group.

Section and SIG Structure

The Section and SIG structure was discussed in regard to its effectiveness. In other words, is there a need to change the structure? Is it working? Could it be better? There was general agreement that communication between sections needs to be improved. The same is true regarding communication between sections and councils. Often, survey efforts, information gathering, and the like are duplicated because the sections are not aware of what the councils are doing and vice versa. Individuals expressed an interest in knowing what other sections are doing beyond programming at the AACP annual meeting.

To resolve these problems the following recommendations were made:

• At least two weeks prior to the Board of Directors meetings, each section will be notified by the AACP staff liaison and asked to submit section news (programming, position papers, etc.) to the ASCC chair to assist him/her in preparing the ASCC report to the Board. The Chair will distribute this compiled report to the chairs and chair-elects of each section (implemented for the February 1994 Board of Directors meeting).
• Staff will look into the availability of space in the AACP News to communicate section information to a wider audience.
• Sections are encouraged to share their newsletters with other section chairs and chair-elects.
• Investigate the usefulness of Internet to facilitate communication among the sections and AACP staff.
• Pursue an editorial column in AJPE for the ASCC Chair, similar to that of the Council of Deans and Council of Faculties chairs (implemented Winter 1994).
• Have the chair or chair-elect of the Council of Deans and Council of Faculties attend the ASCC meeting at the Annual AACP meeting.

ACPE Proposed Revisions of the Accreditation Standards and Guidelines

Each of the sections was encouraged to review and prepare a response to the ACPE Proposed Revision of the Accreditation Standards and Guidelines with regard to education and training within the context of the discipline(s) represented in the section. These responses are to be submitted to the AACP staff liaison by June 1, 1994 for compilation (not modification) and conveyance to ACPE by the AACP Board of Directors.

Poster Abstract Submissions

The question was raised concerning what to do when an abstract submission to a particular section is inappropriate for that section and by the time it is returned to the appropriate section it is beyond the deadline. The Committee recommended that the following sentence be added to the last sentence of the first paragraph of the “Call for Contributed Papers” guidelines:

“If you have any questions regarding the appropriateness of your submission to a particular section, please contact the section chair or chair-elect.”

The Committee agreed that faculty have a responsibility to know the guidelines and to ask questions when in doubt.

Am. J. Pharm. Educ., 58, 33S-34S(1994); received 8/12/94