

## 2014 Annual Report of the AAHSL Representatives to the AAMC Council of Faculty and Academic Societies

The Council of Faculty and Academic Societies held its first meeting at the 2013 AAMC annual meeting. The attendance was greatly increased over past years, mirroring the increase in membership, and included a large number of junior faculty members for the first time.

The first CFAS session was devoted to welcoming and orienting new representatives, hearing from a variety of AAMC officials, and identifying the committees and work groups that had been formed prior to the in-person meeting.

- Nomination and Membership -- Kathleen Nelson, MD, Chair
- Program -- Rosemarie Fisher, M.D., Chair
- Communications -- Amy Hildreth, M.D., Chair
- Evaluation -- Lee Fleisher, M.D., Chair
- Value Proposition Work Group -- Adi Haramati, Ph.D., Chair

The second session was a working lunch, with groups of faculty discussing and identifying issues of concern. The council identified the following issues as being common across the groups and of greatest importance to the membership.

- The emphasis on faculty clinical productivity over research and teaching, and its impact on tenure
- The effects of health system aggregation on the role and value of academic faculty
- The impact of the federal fiscal crisis on a sustainable research agenda
- Federal funding of residency positions, work force, and the GME cap
- Residency education, work hours, quality outcomes, and competencies
- Innovations in education: teaching, learning, and content delivery
- Work-life balance, life stress, and families with two professional careers
- Concerns about governance of academic health centers in the future, particularly the need for physician leaders and the value of leadership training for faculty
- Mission balance and strategic planning for tomorrow's medical school; if the focus is on strengths rather than growth, what will that look like?
- Mentoring, which is needed more than ever in the current environment

In addition to these meetings, the group had a joint lunch with the Council of Deans, with further discussion of the concerns.

The midyear meeting was held in June in Nashville, Tennessee. The meeting was well attended, with more than 240 faculty members from a large variety of schools and societies. The CFAS leadership was pleased with the broad representation and

participation and the fact that 25% of the reps are actively engaged through participating in a working group or committee. The junior faculty are appreciative of an opportunity to have a voice in AAMC.

The program opened with Mark Yudof giving an overview of the challenges of higher education today, followed by a panel discussion. It was a good overview for people attuned to medical education but not to higher education in general.

Janis Orlowski from AAMC gave an overview of the ACA, going into some detail on its impact on healthcare and academic medical centers. Jeff Balsler from Vanderbilt discussed the rather steep cuts the med school and clinical enterprise had to implement. His talk was much anticipated, as the significant cuts at Vanderbilt were well known and people wanted to hear more detail about them as well as about his approach to deciding and implementing the changes. He was pretty straightforward about the challenges he saw ahead for AMCs and the difficult choices that were and still will be needed to address them.

Robert Bazell gave the closing remarks, talking about communicating scientific knowledge and advances to the general public.

There were also miscellaneous workshops, a presentation by AAMC staff on presenting a case to congressional representatives, task force and committee meetings and reports, the obligatory business meeting, and a faculty forum at which Jane spoke of behalf of AAHSL on changing accreditation standards with regard to information resources and information management.

The new organizational structure is considered an expansion of CAS rather than a new direction or mission. The society representatives are seen as representing faculty just as much as the institutional reps.

Given the AAMC structure of three councils (COD, COTH, CFAS) feeding into the Board, the council is AAHSL's only channel for input to the AAMC leadership and one of the few venues in which we can be seen participating in governance. It also presents us with an opportunity to present and represent librarians as faculty with an equal voice in governance. CFAS leaders specifically said that they want to involve all faculty members, not just MDs and PhDs, and we are encouraged to bring forward issues that are important to AAHSL members and to share information from CFAS with AAHSL.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Blumenthal  
Sandra Martin

October 1, 2014