

June 1, 2004, the Medical School at the University of Minnesota

MINUTES University of Minnesota Medical School Faculty Advisory Council June 1, 2004

The meeting of the Medical School Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) was held on Tuesday, June 1, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in Room B620 Mayo Memorial Building. Susan Berry, Chair of the FAC, presided.

Members Present: Susan Berry, Peter Bitterman, Blanche Chavers, Scott Crow, David Current, Patricia Ferrieri, Jon Hallberg, David Ingbar, Walter Low, Steven McLoon, Wesley Miller, James Pacala, Deborah Powell, Sarah Schwarzenberg, Anne Taylor, Douglas Yee
Guest: Allison Campbell

Recognition of Outgoing Members

Susan Berry, Chair of the FAC, presented Mark Bixby, David Cornfield, Scott Crow, David Current, Steven McLoon, and James Van Vooren with keychains to thank them for their service to the FAC during the past three years. Dr. Berry's term is also expiring this year. David Ingbar will serve as the Chair during 2004-2005.

Dr. Ingbar thanked Dr. Berry for her commitment and service to the FAC and for her work as the FAC Chair.

Vice Chair Election

Members eligible to serve should have two years left to serve. New members who have previously served on the FAC are also eligible. A list of eligible candidates will be developed and an electronic vote will be done to elect the new Vice Chair.

Admissions Committee Report

The goal of the Admissions Committee is to admit a diverse, well rounded, academically fit group of medical students who will excel in whatever type of medicine they chose to practice. The typical student who will be admitted has good grades, a strong MCAT score, excellent letters of recommendation, and a strong personal statement.

All applicants go through a three step process of review. Initial applications are reviewed by the Committee member with at least one year of service to determine if they meeting initial standards. If they do, a supplementary application is sent requesting more material from the applicant. Academic achievement is the primary criteria however life experience is also considered. Roughly 2,000 initial applications are received. In the past, each application was reviewed electronically using a point system however the Supreme Court recently ruled that this was illegal. Applications are now reviewed by a Committee member with at least one year of service. The Committee has found that they send out more requests for supplement information but do fewer interviews.

The second step involves the supplemental application. Each applicant is required to pay a \$75 application fee, provide letters of recommendation, and fill out a form containing questions on life experience, motivation for being a doctor, and information on why they would like to attend the University of Minnesota. Two committee members are assigned to review each supplemental application. Approximately 1,300 requests for more information are sent to applicants and roughly 840 are returned.

Interviews are then done with the applicants who are approved. Approximately 421 interviews were done last year. The Committee prefers that non-members interview students. Applicants know who will interview them beforehand and are allowed to ask questions. Interviews are viewed as critical to the admissions process. If the student requests a new interview because they felt the interviewer was biased, they will be given one.

The Committee then meets to consider the remaining candidates. The member who advanced the applicant to the interview phase acts as the students advocate. Each application is voted on and letters are sent to applicants who are accepted.

The Committee does not have a way to predict which students will have problems in medical school. The MCAT biology score is a good indicator of what type of grades the student will get. It is difficult to predict which students will have personal problems. The Committee does not currently received feedback on the performance of previously admitted students.

The Admissions Committee serves as a subcommittee of the FAC. If there are concerns regarding the admissions process, they could be addressed through the FAC. The Dean also gives the Committee its charge each year telling them what type of student to admit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristine Olson

Staff to the FAC

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