

**Gerontological Health Section
Business Meeting II
Tuesday, November 10, 2009**

Attendees: Nancy Miller, Pat Alt, Pierrette J. Cazeau, Marcia Ory, Kysuk Chung, Charles Mouton, Elena Naumova, Pankeje Desai, Holly Beard, Bob Burke, Tom Prohaska, Elaine Jurkowski, Carolyn Mendez Luck, Connie Evashwick, Jim Swan, Lisa Danguich, Susan Miller, Steven Wallace, Esteban Calou, Karen Peters, Fox Wetle, Matthew Smith, Cindy Bryant, Daniel Meng, Larry Branch, Gerry Eggert, Reuben Parrish

Welcome and introduction: Nancy Miller opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Announcements:

Elena Naumova from Tufts announced that her students received our awards and their monograph is just about to be published (on Environments and Infectious Disease for the Elderly). They are acknowledging the support of the GHS section in the report.

Nancy announced that Gerry Eggert wants to add a student awardee to the other awards.

A. Auction and Raffle results:

Nancy announced that we raised \$600 from the raffle and \$2,600 from the auction. She has put some of the funds into the rural and Weiler awards, with the rest going into the RRF Endowment fund.

B. Governing Council discussion

Jim Swan and Lene Levy-Storms pointed out that the topic which has been chosen for 2011's meeting is: "Insuring Health and Sustainable Communities: Pathways to a Healthy Mind and Body". They also reported on the elections, strategic plan discussions, etc. Linda Rae Murray is now President-elect. Drew Harris and Adewale Troutman were elected to the Executive Board. There were several policy late-breakers discussed. Mandatory Vaccination of Health Care workers was tabled and sent back to the policy committee. Protecting abortion coverage in health care reform efforts was passed. There is a proposal to improve the policy process, including making the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) minutes public to the membership. There will also be a special workgroup to look at how the JPC operates, including some members new to it.

C. Student involvement in awards

Gerry Eggert discussed the idea of adding a student award to each of our award categories. This would help get students to join and stay. Connye pointed out that at some point we may need to have a separate session for students, but there is also a worry about diluting the awards process if we make the categories too large. Steve also mentioned that it would place more burden on the awards committee Chairs.

After considerable discussion, it was moved and unanimously approved that we "come up with language to attract more student abstracts for a variety of awards and let the Awards Chair distribute them to the appropriate categories.

D. Membership:

1. Student membership: In addition to the awards, there was considerable discussion about how to involve students better in GHS. Lene suggested inviting them to be more active on subcommittees, etc. We do now give student awardees a one-year section membership and help pay their expenses to attend the following year. Daniel suggested that we expand this to be a scholarship/travel help to the next year's conference, not linked to winning an award. Nancy pointed out that the International Health section has a leadership development program, including fellowships which students can apply for. Tom Prohaska stated that the GSA asks for dissertation proposals and allows students to come to the conference and meet potential mentors. Fox Wetle suggested that we figure out how to get more linkage for students to feel that they "fit" and consider joining committees. Other suggestions were more social activities and more focus on new members and awardees at the first conference GHS business meeting.

2. Membership ideas cited were:

- Roundtables as opportunities to meet and talk about topics
- Workshops for students, perhaps about: mentors, funding streams, grant writing, a grantmakers' roundtable
- More electronic activities: listserv, Facebook, etc.
- Ways to distribute more information to students and new members about grants, fellowships, travel awards
- Perhaps partner with other small sections for a social session
- Arrange our housing all in the same hotel
- Perhaps trade in a scientific session for a foundation roundtable and/or a new members' session/orientation time

3. Member retention ideas included: getting new members involved in reviewing abstracts and joining committees (including conference calls for those committees). Also might help to have a session with journal editors and/or more activities outside of the annual meeting.

4. Further thought will be given to how to have more interactive times with "junior mentees", and clarify that there are opportunities for leadership available for all.

E. Transition:

Susan Miller was officially given the gavel of leadership as the new Section Chair.

Meeting adjourned with thanks to all.