

OFFICE OF PROGRAM RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION (OPRAE)

Howard University College of Medicine

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Based upon the recommendations emanating from Self-study Committees, the LCME Self-study Task Force has begun to address issues of concern for the Howard University College of Medicine. The objective of such actions is to remedy problems raised by the self-study so as to assure compliance with LCME standards well in advance of the site visit in March, 2009. Assignment of agents from faculty committees or from the medical school and hospital administrations to be responsible for these actions is to be introduced by action of the Executive Self-study Committee, chaired by Dean Taylor. These actions require immediate attention so that our summary report to the LCME in November might reflect administrative responsiveness to the recommendations issued by our faculty-led committees.

The **Educational Resources Self-study Committee**, chaired by Dr. Shelley McDonald-Pinkett, has recommended that all administrative records be entered into a central database management system in the Dean's Office. This centralized system would provide ready access to financial records, to student academic records, admissions records, and other vital information about the College of Medicine that is customarily requested by external agencies such as the LCME, the AMA and the AAMC. That database would also be available to

faculty committees and administrators in the College for statistical and analytical purposes. This recommendation has been accepted by the Self-study Task Force for immediate implementation. A dedicated server has been installed for data entry. A position of Database Manager for the Office of the Dean has been authorized. The Office of Program Research, Assessment and Evaluation has been established to coordinate this important function. The Office plans to begin this effort by entering all data for the LCME reports, covering the period 2002-2009. Thereafter, archived data from earlier periods will be integrated and newly acquired data in subsequent years will be added.

Another recommendation from the Educational Resources Committee is to improve the efficiency of response of the Health Sciences Library (HSL) to the informational needs of the faculty and students of the College of Medicine. After its review of the status of this relationship, the Task Force has recommended the establishment of a multi-disciplinary committee to coordinate library acquisitions. The Task Force learned during this discussion that a firewall prevents access to information from the HSL in the Howard University Hospital. The immediate removal of that firewall is recommended by the Task Force.

Throughout its discussion of these considerations for information storage and exchange, the Task force was responding to another of the Educational Resources Committee, that being to upgrade Information Technology within the College of Medicine. The Task force appreciates the critical need for students, faculty and administrators in the College of Medicine to keep pace with information technology. We have made progress through our student computer program for several years, but this field is moving forward so rapidly that we must regularly evaluate our status in order to remain abreast of technological advancements.

Many problems have surfaced in the Educational Resources report about working relationships with the Office of Physical Facilities Management here in the University. As a beginning to address these problems, the Task force has recommended that a group of administrators from the College of Medicine schedule a meeting with the new Director of that unit. The agenda for that meeting would be to discuss cleaning, repairs, and maintenance of classrooms, research laboratories, and equipment essential to the instruction of students and the conduct of biomedical research programs. Where deemed preferable, outsourcing responsibilities might be the best course of action. Expediting work orders for services in the College deserves priority consideration.

The need for a Clinical Skills Facility and a Simulation Laboratory were also among recommendations from the Educational Resources Committee. Plans are now underway to establish these facilities within the next few

months. Space has been allocated and budgetary requirements are in hand.

The final set of recommendations from the Educational Resources Committee concerns security. Efforts are currently underway to upgrade security for the College of Medicine buildings and the Hospital. However, more attention must be given to the areas between buildings and the need for security measures in parking lots, on W street, and along walking routes between the Hospital, the Library and the College of Medicine.

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