

Academic Council 2005-2006 Year in Review

The Academic Council of the Medical College of Georgia has completed a successful and meaningful year of activity. AC was involved in a wide spectrum of activity involving faculty, students, and administrators.

The year started with a welcome reception for new faculty. Dr. Rahn, president of the Medical College of Georgia, and Vincent Robinson, Vice Chair of Academic Council addressed the group pointing out the rich tradition of the Medical College of Georgia and the current strong leadership with the institution firmly set on an upward trajectory. The event was well attended, catered by Mr. Terry Wick of Events and More and all reports are that this was not only one of the most well attended welcome receptions for new faculty but it also lasted the longest. New faculty had a good opportunity to mix far beyond the usual termination time with administrators and existing faculty.

Evaluation of Administrators: The Evaluation of Administrators anonymous survey was completed by end of February 2006 and was used in the current cycle of Evaluation of Administrators at the Medical College of Georgia for the first time. The response rate from faculty was a surprising 44% which is a greater than 300% increase over the previous year.

Dr. Andria Thomas who heads the Evaluation of Administrators Task Force must be given full credit for spending many long hours developing a secure well vetted questionnaire which now allows bottom up feedback in the Evaluation of Administrators in our institution.

Reconstitution of the Student Affairs Subcommittee: The Student Affairs Subcommittee had been dormant for approximately three years and was reconstituted into a single body where all stake holders in student activities, scholastic achievement, and incorporation into MCG culture are present. The committee is ably led by Dr. Kevin Frazier and has had well attended meetings since December 2005. It is anticipated that through this committee no opportunities will be lost for student participation and identification with the MCG campus.

Faculty Development Subcommittee Activities: The Faculty Development Subcommittee had a very active year under the vibrant and stimulating leadership of William Salazar. The entire committee; Darrell Brann, Richard Callan, Laura Chalmers, Sherman Chamberlain, Roman Cibirka, Lyn Dennison, Dave Hill, Barbara Kiernan, Carol Lefebvre, Puttur Prasad, Vincent Robinson, Elizabeth Wark and William Salzaar have been extremely participatory and provided critical input into the successful activities of this subcommittee. A nationally acclaimed consultant on faculty development was engaged and has completed one productive visit to campus and is scheduled for another visit at the end on May 2006 from which a proposal on academic council's role in faculty development on the MCG campus should emanate. A faculty needs survey has been

administered, scored and presented to the consultant by the faculty development subcommittee.

Initiation of new program Forum for the Future: During the current academic year a new campus wide effort was launched to inform and encourage participation of faculty and administration in issues presenting in the near term and medium term to an academic health sciences center. This Forum for the Future was initiated with Ms. Janet Bickel's visit where she presented a talk on career development for faculty and moderated the subsequent discussion. The next Forum for the Future is scheduled for May 18, 2006 where the U.S. Academic Health Centers will be contrasted to the Canadian Academic Health Centers using the University of Calgary experience as a case study. Plans are afoot for Forum for the Futures in the fall involving Simulation in Medicine and Family Centered Care; the New Paradigm in American Medicine.

The Academic Council "Spirit of MCG Award": At the Spring General Faculty Assembly the Academic Council initiated a new award given to the individual who fosters faculty empowerment, achievement and loyalty across the MCG campus. The "Spirit of MCG" promoted by the Academic Council embodies a sense of community and shared achievement defining a vibrant academic environment. Here all members of the MCG community are welcomed and assisted in achieving their goals and potential. No one is too insignificant or otherwise, not to be treated with respect and positive regard for their abilities. Faculty and other members of the community feel empowered to express themselves verbally and intellectually on all issues without any fear or risk of reprisal. Academic Council feels that although it is hard to put a cost benefit on such community spirit that the loyalty and creativity that emanate from such a culture is needed so that MCG can climb into the top quartile of academic institutions nationally and remain there. We hope that by presenting this award to a person who has championed these values across all intra-institutional boundaries; Academic Council wishes to point the way to an inclusive and regenerative vibrant Health Sciences University of the Future. Of course, given the far-reaching requirements of attainment campus wide, this award is likely to be awarded only in years when a suitable nominee is identified.

The inaugural winner of this most prestigious award give by Academic Council, presented at the Spring General Faculty Assembly on April 27, 2006 was President Daniel W. Rahn.

The level of enthusiasm and involvement of faculty in campus wide activities has never been greater and never been more engaged. We believe that through this year the role of Academic Council in the development of campus wide facilitation of faculty activities and interactions have become apparent. Healthy discussions on a wide of variety of issues from faculty development to the future direction of our campus have now become focused through the activities of Academic Council. As a discussion engages more of faculty, our university becomes stronger and is able to make decisions on a broader based and informed manner. It has truly been an exhilarating experience to see many talented, dedicated, articulate faculty coming together to make MCG into a premier health center in our nation. In view of this experience I am confident that Academic Council will be

playing an important role in the development of the MCG culture of the future where faculty are embraced, empowered, and supported through a wide spectrum of creative activity. To unleash the creative potential of our faculty is to maximize the potential of the Medical College of Georgia in our community and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

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