

Report of the AACP Advocacy and Outreach Committee
2007 AACP Annual Meeting

Members of the 2006-07 Advocacy and Outreach Committee

COF: Cynthia Boyle (University of Maryland)
Brad Cannon (University of Illinois at Chicago)
Robert Cisneros (Campbell University)

COD: Johnnie Early (University of Toledo)
Peter Hurd (St. Louis College of Pharmacy)
Ken Roberts (University of Kentucky)
Victoria Roche (Creighton University, Chair)

Upon the appointment of the 2006-07 Committee, Victoria Roche and Will Lang met by phone to establish the Committee charge, which was to provide Will with timely critiques of policy- or legislation-related documents arising from AACP or other health professions practice/education organizations when requested. Committee members were encouraged to not only respond to Will's call for input with their own ideas and opinions, but to also seek feedback on the documents from others on their faculty or within their University.

The Committee provided feedback to Will on the following legislative issues or documents:

October, 2006

- The American Public Health Association's "Role of the Pharmacist in Public Health" (a document very supportive of the role of pharmacists in advancing and protecting the public health)

December, 2006 (110th Congressional issues as they relate to the activities within the nation's Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy and AACP's legislative agenda)

- Reauthorization of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act, the State Children's Health Insurance Program and health professions education programs under Title VII
- Cost and accountability in higher education
- Clarifying and strengthening the Medicare Part D benefit to address MTM provisions and federal drug price negotiation
- Strengthening FDA's ability to assure the safety of drugs and medical devices
- NIH-AHRQ Comparative effectiveness programs
- Continued funding of agencies that fund research important to Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy (NIH, CDC, SAMHSA, etc.)

January, 2007

- Medicare price negotiation and controlling Medicare-related drug costs (specifically HR 4, which requires the HHS to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices)
- AACP's legislative agenda for the first session of the 110th Congress

May, 2007

- Medication safety education and research initiatives within Schools and Colleges of Pharmacy


In March, 2007, the Committee crafted a formal recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the structure and function of the newly organized Standing Committee on Advocacy (approved by the House of Delegates at the 2006 Annual Meeting). Specifically, Advocacy Committee membership would be representative of organizational diversity, and one year appointments would be made by the AACP President in consultation with the Vice President for Policy and Advocacy. The Standing Committee's proposed charges include:

- Provide a rapid response to pressing legislative issues when requested by the AACP Vice President for Policy and Advocacy
- Recommend the development of policy and/or provide advocacy-related advice to the AACP Board of Directors, both proactively and upon request
- Identify legislative/advocacy issues that warrant debate by a broader constituency, and bring at least one such item before the House of Delegates for discussion at the Annual Meeting. The discussion would be captured and summarized to inform the AACP Board of Directors and the general membership.
- As the Committee evolves, consider adding a charge, through the Board of Directors, for a scholarly review of an important legislative or advocacy issue that would shape the direction of AACP's legislative agenda and/or the environment in which the Association conducts its legislative/advocacy work. The product of these scholarly deliberations would be presented to the House of Delegates and the Board of Directors as reports, which would subsequently be published in the *Journal*.

The Committee's recommendation was subsequently approved by the AACP Board of Directors.

The Committee generated a list of potential legislative issues of sufficient importance and urgency to bring before the House. The issues suggested ranged from pharmacists prescribing, reactions to economic threats and challenges, medication errors, stem cell research, meeting the IOM mandates for team-based, patient centered care, and enhancing faculty and student awareness of and interest in legislative advocacy. At the time of the writing of this report (6-3-07), the topic suggestions were being prioritized in order to select a compelling issue to put before the 2007 House of Delegates.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria F. Roche". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectively submitted,".

Victoria F. Roche, Ph.D.
Chair, AACP Advocacy and Outreach Committee