

MEDSAC PRESENTATION RE PA PROGRAM AND BHS DEGREE, 5/15/72

On Friday, May 11, 1972, Dr. Kinney presented to Dr. Estes two proposals re the BHS Degree which he presented as compromise proposals developed by a meeting of the basic science chairman. Proposal #1 was that we admit only degree qualified candidates. Proposal #2 was that we establish a partial two track system, all degree candidates taking three courses, Physiology, Pharmacology and Biochemistry, taught by the basic science departments while all non degree candidates would take three similar courses taught by the Department of Community Health Sciences. In addition, all degree candidates would be required to have one course in organic chemistry.

These proposals were carefully reviewed by the PA Program staff, and were not felt to be acceptable. Proposal #2 was felt to be objectionable because it would establish a system with two classes of students. The requirement of organic chemistry would also be unreasonable since it has an average of two other chemistry courses as prerequisites.

These conclusions were stated at a meeting with Dr. Anlyan and Dr. Kinney on Sunday, May 13, 1972. Dr. Kinney stated his opinion that a two track system was the only way to insure quality, since only those students with two years of prior college experience and certain prerequisites could survive courses at a collegiate level.

After a considerable discussion, Dr. Anlyan suggested an experiment, both as a compromise and as a means of gathering objective data for the future. He proposed that a special study be conducted, involving three courses: Chemical Biology, Physiology, and Pharmacology. Chemical Biology will be taught to all students (except a small number who might elect Biochemistry) by an instructor appointed by the Department of Community Health Sciences. Physiology will be taught to all students by an instructor appointed by the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology. Pharmacology will be divided into two sections, one being for degree students and taught by the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and the other being for non-degree students and taught

by the Department of Community Health Sciences.

At the end of the courses, the students' performance in all three classes will be evaluated by an objective committee of faculty members, the comparisons being between degree and non-degree students.

It is understood that the experiment would be set up on an objective basis to avoid bias. The committee should be appointed by Dr. Anlyan, with at least 50% of its members representing clinical sciences. The committee should set up its criteria in advance, and all objective data should be available for inspection. The committee should submit a written report, with recommendations regarding implications for future P.A. classes. The report should be submitted to the Director of Medical and Allied Health Education, with copies to all members of MEDSAC. It is understood that we would be collectively obligated to act on the basis of the results.

No other compulsory changes in the current requirements or curriculum will be made until the results of the experiment are available and can be incorporated into the published requirements.

Proposal Re PA Program and the EHS Degree

The following is submitted to MEDSAC as a compromise position regarding the award of the EHS degree to candidates participating in the PA Program.

1. The PA Program will be continued in the manner proposed to and approved by the Allied Health Policy Committee at its meeting on 4/26/72. This program included a course, Chemical Biology (PA 230), as a noncredit course as far as the degree is concerned, but this course is to be considered as a requirement for certification as a PA. Students with necessary prerequisites can take the medical school course in biochemistry (BCH 200).

2. Courses in Physiology, Pharmacology, Anatomy, and Microbiology will be taught by the relevant department.

3. Dr. Kinney will appoint three faculty members to work with the current selection committee for the PA Program. These members will work with the committee for the remainder of the selection cycle, interviewing candidates, comparing records, and selecting candidates for the next entering class.

4. This group will select a class which contains 25 degree candidates, defined as having two years of transferrable credits as specified in the description of the EHS degree, plus one college level course in chemistry and biology. The remaining 15 candidates will have one course in chemistry and one course in biology, but have less than two years of college work.

5. A committee, appointed by Dr. Kinney, will review the grades and general progress of the two groups at the end of the first year, and will make a written report to Dr. Kinney and MEDSAC covering the objective data, plus their recommendations regarding the ability of the nondegree group to compete successfully with the degree group. Decisions regarding further changes in requirements and curriculum will await the outcome of the proposed study.