

"STRAW VOTE"
BOARD OF ADVISORS
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICIANS' ASSOCIATES
August 17, 1972

Issue: Acceptance Of MEDEX Students And Graduates Into The Academy .

This is not an official ballot but an effort at polling your opinions regarding the Academy accepting MEDEX students and graduates. The "real" issue is of course should the Academy remain exclusive or become more inclusive. This has been a long debated subject and recently several board members have thought it wise for the Academy to become more inclusive by at least accepting MEDEX students and graduates. Several board of advisor members in the past have stated that this issue could be decided by reviewing the Academy's objectives. Several board of director members feel that the by-laws would be observed and the objectives of the Academy reached if we accepted students and graduates of MEDEX and other "allied health" programs.

MEDEX Programs generally consist of three months classroom work at a university medical complex followed by twelve months of preceptorship training hopefully with the physician for whom the student will work after graduation. Physician's Associate Programs consist of nine to ten months of classroom work followed by twelve to fourteen months of on the job training in medicine, surgery, and etc. However, though the training in many respects is vastly different, the tasks apparently being performed by MEDEX graduates are very similar to those being done by Physician's Associates.

The "action" being taken by "organized medicine" on the national scene are of course influencing the "Academy's" decision on this issue. The American Medical Association is accrediting programs for the assistant to the primary care physician and will in all probability accredit the MEDEX Programs under this category. The National Board of Medical Examiners Special Committee is in the process of developing a national certifying examination for assistants to the primary care physician which apparently will have a small but significant portion devoted to the basic sciences and it is the feeling of several members on the Special Committee that this test will be a difficult one for the MEDEX graduate. Also of great interest is the recent actions taken by the Office of Education (U.S. Commissioner of Education - Dr. Marlon) which seems to disfavor the American Medical Association's present method of accrediting Physician's Assistant Programs. Apparently the Office of Education would like to see an "independent group" do so as recommended in the SASHEP Report v.s. having the American Medical Association change their methods of accrediting Physician's Assistant Programs.

Two important questions are then raised. Who will, in the end, be responsible for accrediting programs for the assistant to the primary care physician? Also, who will be able to pass the National Board of Medical Examiners' certifying examination for the assistant to the primary care physician?

There are board of director members both pro and con to the aforementioned issue. As President and realizing the political "problems" involved I favor maintaining our present course, waiting for the American Medical Association and/or the Office of Education's advice and action, and not at this time admitting MEDEX graduates and students to the Academy.

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What are your opinions regarding this issue in a "straw vote":

I approve of making the Academy more inclusive by accepting MEDEX students and graduates.

I do not approve of making the Academy more inclusive by accepting MEDEX students and graduates.

Comments (If you approve of accepting MEDEX students and graduates would you accept any other "Physician's Assistant" students and graduates?)

P
A
H
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(signature)

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Issue: Insurance

The Academy's committee on insurance has for the past two years been studying various insurance "packages" that could be offered to the Academy membership. The committee has been working with Mr. Ted Royall, an insurance broker in Durham, North Carolina, and has submitted a "package" put together by the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company.

Basically speaking the insurance package with Mutual Benefit Life gives the graduate Physician's Associate (that is, voting members of the Academy) \$10,000 term life insurance terminating at age 65 and disability insurance equal in an amount to $66 \frac{2}{3}$ of one's monthly earnings up to a maximum of \$600 per month after three consecutive months of disability. The combined cost of the life and disability insurance will cost each member of the Academy \$71.40 per year. The insurance package is very reasonable in cost and as Mr. Ted Royall states a "steal at the price". However, in order to get this insurance package every Academy member's participation will in essence be mandatory.

If approved, an Academy member's dues would rise from \$30 to approximately \$100 per year.

There are those on the board of directors who feel the Academy is too young and small in numbers to accept such an insurance package that will require such an increase in dues. There are others who think the package is excellent and will benefit the Academy in the long run. They point that the increased dues which reflects the cost of the insurance package will be tax deductible and that the Academy might in the future receive yearly "rebates" from the insurance company. As President, I favor rejection of this policy believing that in the future when we are a much larger organization that this would be feasible but likewise I would like to approach the general membership for a vote on this issue.

What are your opinions regarding this issue:

I approve of the aforementioned insurance package for the Academy.

I do not approve of the aforementioned insurance package for the Academy.

Comments

(Signature)