

**SOCIETY OF PRIMARY CARE POLICY FELLOWS  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2005  
3:30 PM – 6:00 PM  
WASHINGTON, DC**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:** Michael Carter (presiding), Norma Bowyer, Gary Colangelo, Jean Johnson, Ruby Neville, Eileen O’Grady, Robert Phillips, Heather Reynolds, Ruth Sanchez-Way, Robert Schwartz, and Kirsten Thomsen.

**Minutes:** The participants accepted the minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting without objection.

**Financial & Membership Report**

N. Bowyer provided a financial update for the organization. She summarized the membership levels, noting the breakdown of participation by class years. She emphasized the importance of expanding the Active membership base to support the organizational activities and urged the class representatives to reach out to Fellows.

The group discussed the challenges of maintaining current class lists. Despite the holes, the Society list continues to be more comprehensive than the federal list. The class representatives will provide assistance in tracking classmates, and a staff person will be responsible for researching contact information. Nominating organizations may be a resource for “lost” Fellows.

The group entertained the question of why one should become Active in the Society. R. Neville offered that, from her perspective, being an Active member offers the opportunity to work collaboratively with people of similar interests on projects of interest (e.g., Roundtable), and enhances one’s professional career.

**Election Results**

H. Reynolds, chair of the Nominating Committee, confirmed the election results: Gary Allen Colangelo as President-Elect, Norma Bower as Treasurer, Modena Wilson as Class ’91 representative, Nancy Ridenour as Class ’93 representative, Jean Johnson as Class ’95 representative, Donna Nativio as Class ’97 representative, Eileen T. O’Grady as Class ’99 representative, Terry Seaton as Class ’01 representative, and Robert L. Phillips as Class ’03 representative.

## Future Direction of the Organization

M. Carter asked R. Schwartz, incoming president, to lead the discussion about the future activities of the Society. R. Schwartz recognized that Fellows are involved in a breadth of policy arenas in various leadership positions, which is valuable to the Society. Yet, the Society needs to attract the Fellows to be active within the organization. He concluded that the Society has a critical need of \$ to move the Society forward and he reported on the positive outcome of his discussions with 2 foundations. He indicated that he would need further direction about what the membership needs and what the Society wants to do with funding.

J. Johnson posed the question about whether the scope of the organization is big enough to support its future. The group discussed the potential limitations of growth if the Fellowship is discontinued or impacted. Discussion ensued about whether or not the focus of the organization should be just on the Fellows or should it encompass primary care broadly and/or primary care policy. The group considered whether other organizations would want to join a single organized focused on primary care or would this be considered competitive. A question was raised as to whether “primary care” is passé and incites a negative view. The group concluded that further discussion of these issues is needed, as well as consideration of whether there is a need for the Society to be broader in focus or is there another organization or entity that already fills the needs for primary care.

The group discussed a primary role of the Society as helping to drive policy to address the key questions of (1) What are the healthcare outcomes we want?, and (2) What does healthcare need to look like to get to these outcomes? B. Phillips reported that the January Hill Forum co-hosted by the AAFP Graham Center and the Society demonstrated a desire by the Hill to get more information about health care issues and how primary care fits. He noted that since the Graham Center cannot offer Hill forums regularly, the Society is poised to fill this void. The group discussed that the Society is positioned also to draw on the resources of its Fellows and connections to the nominating organizations to identify the pressing issues for stakeholders and to bring together the various data sources.

R. Schwartz asked the group to think about what a funding Board would need to know about an organization requesting money and its proposed activities. The group recognized that further delineation of the Roundtable forum would be needed. It was suggested that getting input from Hill health legislative aides and others would be useful to identify health care priorities and how primary care fits in the solutions. The Society role would be to identify the major health issues and to develop strategies to address these issues. Identifying data sources would be useful in developing the strategies. The group recommended that the emphasis could be on how the Society is interdisciplinary and is an independent think tank.

In the discussions, the group identified other several specific strategies for the Society to expand:

- ❑ Focus of agenda/mission is what can be sold to organization
- ❑ Identify the top 10 things to get involved with in the Society
- ❑ Development of an annual newsletter
- ❑ Consider co-sponsoring a conference of federal and state health funding agencies.
- ❑ Get the Society “house in order” – provide a cogent structure
- ❑ Explore having an intern in the office to provide support to projects and general activities.
- ❑ Identify specific topics and interests and promote the Society as a forum to bring together Fellows and others on these topics.

## **Next Steps**

R. Schwartz identified the value in bringing together the Board again soon in person to continue the discussions and to shape the funding proposal. The group agreed to reconvene in August. K. Thomsen offered to contact several senior health legislative aides to invite their participation in the August meeting to add a Hill perspective to the discussions about key issues for health care.

Following adjournment of the meeting and during the reception with the Class of 2005 Fellows, the Board recognized M. Carter for his year of service as president.