

BOD and Staff Response to the 2016 Student Report

The ACNM Board of Directors and National Office Staff thank the student members of the organization for their work in compiling and presenting the 2016 Student Report. We value your opinions and seek to make this organization inclusive of you, the students, who are the future of our profession and this organization. In this document we will respond to each section of the Student Report.

Communication & Student Engagement:

ACNM has worked to include students as participating members in the organization. We would like to recognize the many students already actively engaged in the organization on a local affiliate level and at a national level. One student from each education program serves as liaison to the Students and New Midwives Section (SANMS) of the Division of Education (DOE) and as a legislative volunteer on the Government Affairs Committee. Students have served on many national divisions and committees and in very active roles in the local affiliates. ACNM has also had a student serve as a member of the Board of Directors since 2009. This student is actively involved in the Board's discussion of issues.

We recognize that students want to be more involved, and also recognize the energy that students bring to the organization. On behalf of the Board, Cathy Collins-Fulea, Vice-President, and Andrew Youmans, Student Representative, drafted a letter to the volunteer leadership of the College on July 26, 2016. This letter asked divisions, sections, committees, caucuses, and taskforces to include students in their activities. Information on these opportunities was distributed to students via the student listserv. Regional Representatives were also asked to encourage local affiliates to involve students in their activities.

Communications, including the ACNM website are a recognized issue by the Board and the College. We are researching ways to improve the website at this time and better serve the needs of the members. The Board also approved the purchase of a new association management system (AMS) at

the September Board meeting. This system should help improve communication with members, the Board, and the national office staff.

The request for mentorship and affiliate sponsorship of student and new midwives has been given to the Membership and Marketing Committee to discuss and evaluate this idea.

Education

The shortage of clinical preceptors and clinical sites has been a recurring issue in the student report for many years. We recognize that this is a complex issue, and one that has not been easily solved. The Division of Education is currently actively involved in trying to find solutions to this issue, and will continue to do so. The DOE will continue to provide free preceptor workshops and to honor preceptors at the ACNM Annual Meeting. The DOE is also exploring avenues for increased electronic visibility of potential preceptors. In addition, ACNM, in partnership with ACOG, has received grant funding from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation to implement an Interprofessional Education (IPE) project that seeks, among other goals, to increase the number of midwifery graduates through the sharing of clinical sites between OB/GYN residents and midwifery graduate students. The project begins in February, 2017.

The BOD acknowledges the request from some students for greater access to training to provide abortion services. At this time, provision of abortion services is not a core competency. Those interested in providing this service may follow the standard for inclusion of advanced skills beyond the core competencies.

We acknowledge the increase in the number of students entering midwifery programs with backgrounds in fields other than nursing, for both CNM and CM programs. The Section Chairs of several

sections of the DOE have composed a position statement affirming that labor and delivery nursing experience is not necessary for entry to midwifery education or for midwifery practice, and this draft position statement will be reviewed by the Board at the March meeting.

Transition of New Midwives/Clinical Practice

In recognition of the challenges that new midwives face, the Board of Directors has asked the SANMS to further develop resources to help the new midwife. The Board also recognizes the members of SANMS for the work they have already done to prepare new midwives for the demands of the profession including the New Midwives webinars and the many resources on the New Midwives page of the ACNM website. In addition, there are multiple social media sources available through ACNM to new midwives including the ACNM Student Midwives and ACNM New Midwives page.

As mentioned earlier with the website, ACNM is investigating how to better serve its member's needs, and will soon be implementing a new association management system. In addition, we have asked the national office staff to investigate the financial implications and feasibility of an ACNM App.

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion are key priorities of the ACNM Board of Directors and the ACNM organization. Several years ago, the Board of Directors created a Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce to investigate ways we can prevent discrimination within ACNM. A consultant was hired, a report was generated and is available on the ACNM website, and the BOD continues to work on implementing the recommendations of the report. We enthusiastically agree the momentum to advance diversity and inclusion must continue. We will continue to encourage student midwives as well as new and seasoned midwives to dialogue with each other and communicate with the board their ideas on diversification and inclusion of the profession and professional organization. The November-December 2016 issue of the JMWH is dedicated to health equity.

In response to the call asking for the editors of *Varney's Midwifery* to include a more robust history to include the contributions of midwives of color, ACNM has no direct authority over the editing of *Varney's Midwifery*. However, Andrew Youmans, Student Representative, has contacted the senior editor of the text, Tekoa King, and discussed the concerns directly outlined by the students in the report. The editors are very aware of the concerns of Patricia Loftman, CNM, Chair of the Midwives of Color Committee (MOCC), which was also echoed by the SANMS Liaisons in the 2016 student report. The senior editor reports that they are beginning revisions for the 6th edition of the text and that they plan to address these concerns. The editors have been in contact with Patricia Loftman and are currently planning a meeting for December 2016 to hear more from MOCC before the Varney chapters are revised.

Conclusion

The ACNM Board of Directors again thanks the students that participated in writing and presenting this report to the membership. We will continue to follow up on the issues you have raised as a group and encourage your continued input via the SANM section of the DOE and at this year's annual meeting in Chicago. Your passion for this organization and this profession is evident. We value the voice of the student membership and hope that you will continue to be an active voice in this organization as you continue your education and transition into active membership as a practicing midwife. It is our pleasure to serve you.