

## Report of the Health Professions Advisement Committee

1981-1982

The Health Professions Advisement Committee was formed by Dr. William Weston, former Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, in the fall of 1976 as an instrument to assist undergraduates, primarily, who desired to enter schools of medicine, dentistry, and optometry. Ten members of the faculty were appointed representing the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Pharmacy, Philosophy and Psychology.

The purpose of the Committee is not just to play advocate for students who sought admission to medical education, but to provide advisement service to all candidates who utilize the Committee. The Committee is acquainted with the requirements of many medical schools, the idea being that our pre-medical students should have opportunity to fulfill all necessary course requirements that would allow them to seek entrance into any school of medicine. A representative library of medical college catalogs, together with resource materials, is available in the University Center for Undeclared Majors, the present location of the Health Professions Advisement office. Recommendations are made regarding the proper sequence of courses that students should take who desire to pursue careers as physicians, dentists, optometrists, podiatrists and doctors of veterinary medicine. Literature is also available to prospective students of the health professions and maintained to provide current information with respect to educational requirements and career opportunities. The Committee collects evaluations of students by their professors as early as their third semester, if such students applied to the Committee for assistance. Printed evaluation forms are distributed

to professors from whom evaluations are requested. A composite evaluation, based on the file accumulated for review, is sent by the Committee to all schools for advanced medical education designated by the candidates. The Committee continues a policy established by the original members who, after consultation with the University attorney, decided on maintaining an open file. Each candidate receives a personal interview with members of the Committee. This is accomplished by the formation of subcommittees for the purpose of interviewing. Lastly, the Committee develops a composite review of a candidate's record together with an explanation of possible inconsistencies in the record.

The Health Professions Advisement Committee also serves students who desire a career in the health professions, but who obviously have little chance of becoming a physician, dentist, optometrist, or veterinarian. The University's Career counselor, Mr. Melvin T. Davis, located in the University Center for Undeclared Majors, has served an invaluable role since 1976 in coordinating the Committee's activities and providing record-keeping, office-assistance, research and counseling. Students interested in the health professions thus have an office, and a counselor, to whom they may readily turn, regardless of the magnitude of the question, the process or the strategy for seeking any of the several dozen types of positions attainable in various health fields.

During the seven years of the Committee's existence, nationally the percentage of students from all colleges and universities in the United States who were accepted into schools of medicine has ranged between 36% in 1976-77 to 46% in 1980-81. In contrast, the figures on the rate of acceptance into medical schools for candidates applying through our committee has been

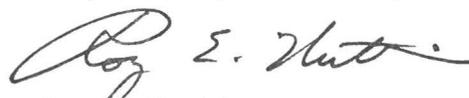
consistently far above the national average, and our students have been accepted to schools such as Duke, Vanderbilt, Tulane, Jefferson, and the University of Chicago, as well as to the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and the Medical University of South Carolina.

<u>Entering Year</u>	<u>Percentage of Applicants Enrolled (US)</u>	<u>Adjusted Percentage of Applicants Accepted (USC)</u>
1976-77	36	62.5
1977-78	38	87.2
1978-79	44	85.7
1979-80	45	81.1
1980-81	46	73.8
1981-82	Unknown at present	73.3 (to date)

The members of the Committee are very pleased with this record and should be recognized for these accomplishments. They are truly noteworthy and have required a considerable investment in time, care and patient counseling. The composition of the Health Professions Advisement Committee for the current academic year, 1981-1982 consists of the following members:

- Dr. Edward B. Baker, Pharmacy
- Dr. John W. Baynes, Chemistry
- Dr. Samuel Ashley Brown, English
- Dr. Wallace D. Dawson, Biology
- Prof. Gwen Felton, Nursing
- Dr. Edwin R. Jones, Physics
- Dr. Russell Pate, Physical Education
- Dr. Karl Slaikeu, Psychology
- Dr. Roy E. Wuthier, Chemistry
- Dr. Richard G. Zingmark, Marine Science/Biology

Respectfully submitted,



Roy E. Wuthier  
Chairman, Health Professions  
Advisement Committee