

Summer Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

12-1pm

In Attendance: Approx 20 students,

Staff- Annie Yu, Yasuo Tanaka, Robbyn Kawaguchi, Joyce Kwok, Nishanga Bliss, David Caruso-Radin, Patricia Ward, Kathryn Billet, Chelsea Broido

Carpet Update:

Mr. Tanaka opened the meeting by apologizing about the carpet issue. Although he had spent a lot of time with the company installing the carpet discussing low or no-VOC products, we did not end up with what we wanted due to communication issues with the installer. Mr. Tanaka has been working now directly with the carpet *supplier* who has presented us with the type of products we initially wanted. He is in the process of getting this other carpet product and will schedule the installation when it is appropriate with classes.

Admin Changes Update:

Mr. Tanaka stated that the purpose of the Admin team is to support students and the purpose of the Board of Directors is to make decisions based on the students' best interests. Fixed tuition is a commitment that Mr. Tanaka will make to the current students- there will not be a tuition hike for the period that they are completing the program. Other schools have raised their tuition almost 50% in the last 5 years where AIMC has not gone up. There may be some new fees added, but no tuition changes.

The Bursar position has been eliminated. There was not a need for both an Accounting and Bursar position for a school as small as AIMC. Many of the Accounting functions have been outsourced to a CPA company. Our on-campus accounting support staff is Chelsea Broido. Chelsea made an introduction and is looking forward to supporting the student body.

We are in the process of making processes easier for students- one thing that will be implemented is a payment function through the Student Portal so that students can pay their tuition/fee balance without having to depend on the availability of staff members.

Doctoral Update:

ACAOM requires 300 hours for FPD programs. AIMC is meeting this with 170 didactic hours and 130 clinic hours. The clinic portion will be very hands on, which is different from other FPD programs. The didactic portion will be 50% online, with in-person class meetings once a month. Other similar programs are 100% online- AIMC does not support this learning method.

The program will be two terms (8 months) in length and should cost roughly \$800/month.

Dr. Ta ya Lee will be one of the core instructors. She has a DAOM from Five Branches and a PhD from Tian jin Univ. She is a Nurse Pract and also Acupuncturist. She is connected with one of the leading hospitals, Johns Hopkins and is a leading expert in integrative medicine.

Dr. Ogawa will be a visiting professor- topic is silver needles

The FPD will have an “integrative medicine” focus-

Thesis Writing/Research will help students gain the experience with communicating with Western Med and other health care providers

Externship sites provides hands-on experience partnering with Western Med providers- i.e Our W. Berkeley/Lifelong externship site has offered 18 treatment rooms and an all-day Saturday schedule for our students.

AIMC is also committed to offering affordable care which is the model for W Berk & Charlotte Maxwell.

CAB Update-

Switching from paper-based tests to computer-based. Beginning with the Fall exam. Although announced at a CAB meeting, no official announcement on website.

NCCAOM Update-

Beginning September 2018, pre-Grad eligibility will be eliminated. A student must have officially completed their MSOM program to begin the tests.

Beginning January 2020, NCCAOM will only offer the exams 4 times a year. There has been a lot of opposition which NCCAOM is reviewing right now.

Attendance Policy Update-

Mr. Tanaka clarified the intention of the change is to support student’s academic success.

The meeting is now open for Q&A:

Q: How will the Level 4 Clinic be different than Level 3?

A: More focused on “integrative medicine”. Will include work that helps students gain this experience/knowledge- ie. “case reporting” that is publishable quality. Case reporting will be integrated into lower level clinics as well.

No supervision

Direct communication with MD- ie. Echarts.

Working on Children’s Hospital partnership

Will offer variety of Intern options

Q. Student asked when FA would be available for this program.

A. FA can be offered when program is fully accredited. ACAOM's process of accrediting new programs involves a Self-Study report & site visit which is generally scheduled one year after enrolling the first cohort. ACCHS took about 1 ½ years for accreditation so this is probably the standard timeline for ACAOM. Robbyn mentioned that Victoria said there may be an option for students to schedule a "anticipated tuition increase" plan in advance. This needs to be looked into.

Q: How does the attendance policy "support" students? It seems it will do the opposite.