Student Relations Advisory Committee

April, 26 2003

12:00-2:00

Bates Room

Michigan Union

Present: Frank Cianciola, Damon Fairfield, Martin Gold, Simone Himbealt Taylor, Patricia King, Beth Powell (Staff)

Absent: Pierce Beckham, Al Burdi, Gary Faerber, Royster Harper, Dana Fair, Marita Inglehart, Kathy Irwin, Jong-Jin Kim, Chair Barbara MacAdam, Melissa Mercer, Karen Reiman-Sendi, Phil Savage, Ian Scott Ed Willis[1]

Guests: Keith Elkin, Gwyn Hulswit, Leo Rutledge, Robert Winfield

Approval of Minutes and Announcements

Patricia King will chair this meeting because MacAdam is out of the country. Approval of the Minutes was delayed until next meeting because there is no quorum.

Update on HIPAA and Privacy Health Information Issues

We are examining this policy to understand it's impact on the student body. A discussion ensued on whether or not we should proceed with such a small number of committee members present. It was decided that we will have a quick overview of the policy now and revisit it in the fall when there is a larger group present.

HIPAA is designed to do many things, most importantly it works to ensure privacy to users of health services, it also standardizes many of the differences between insurance companies so that employees will have an easier time transitioning from one company to another.

[1] Underline denotes voting members
There is some difficulty for providers to understand these regulations because the published rules are about 1400 pages long. The organizations excluded from these regulations are those that do not use electronic billing.

There are four major ways that HIPAA will standardize and secure information for all users. The first method is the standardization of transactions and code sets, a person’s information will be easily transferred from one company to another because they will use all of the methods to record information. The second impact is the security of protected health information, this limits who can access patients information. The third method is the Privacy and confidentiality that gives the patient access to their information and limits others who can access it. Finally, unique identifiers for providers, patients, and health plans give a standardized method of tracking these people and groups in order to make sure information is not lost.

There is an issue with the security of Internet communication between patient and doctor because email is not secure.

There are strong penalties for noncompliance, and enforcement is activated based on complaints.

**Structure**

There are two compliance programs at the University of Michigan, the first is the Campus, and this includes the Health Services. The second is the Health System, which includes schools of Health. Both of these systems are working closely together.

Programs affected are; clinics within the schools, but not the entire school, and staff benefits because they are owned by the school. Counseling and Psychiatric services are not covered by HIPAA because they don't bill, they do however, adhere to a very strong privacy policy. The Athletic department and ISR are also not covered. Only people who are trained and receive signed statements will be covered by this policy.

Students will all be presented with the choice for their information to be used in research. They will also be informed that they will receive the same level of services whether or not they choose to sign the release.

**Implications for students**

HIPAA will now be a part of the curriculum for students in the health professions. It will be more difficult for student researchers to obtain data. Students will now receive only de-identified data. Students in schools that are effected by HIPAA will need to be trained a will any student who is a care provider-they will be considered an employee. Students who are patients will be able to have access to their data and are informed of privacy rights.

**Information flow**
All that is available now about a patient is a brief statement on their condition being, "good, stable, fair" HIPAA binds health care providers in the same way that FERPA binds school officials. These regulations do have different rules and restrictions.

2002-03 Amendment Review Process: Suggestions for Improvement or Clarification?

We need a quorum in order to make any decisions.

Suggestions:

1. Meet in September when there will be more people present.
2. Distribute an informal survey over email to give SRAC members a chance to voice their suggestions and criticisms.
3. Have committee members from this year return in September 2004 to discuss the process with that committee.

The earlier suggestion that this should be a yearly process has been thought over and MSA has voiced that they do not want this to happen because it would distract members from other tasks at hand.

This should be discussed while it is still fresh in the committee's minds. We will discuss the possibility of a May meeting date and other options over email.

The meeting Adjourned at 1:05

Minutes Respectfully Submitted

Beth Powell

SACUA Support Staff