

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MEDICAL
EDUCATION AND ACCREDITATION

OPEN SESSION

Monday, March 30, 2009

8:00 a.m.

The Madison - Loews Hotel
John Adams Room A & B
1177 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

MR. JAMES: This is the post-test? But I hate post-tests. All right.

Members of the Committee, I again will be presenting the report submitted by the Dominican Republic and you can find that again at Tab D.

The Secretary of State for Higher Education, Science and Technology is the entity responsible for evaluating medical schools within the Dominican Republic. In 2007 approximately \$37 million in federal student financial aid was awarded to students that enrolled in post-secondary institutions located within the Dominican Republic.

At the spring 2004 meeting, you determined that the Dominican Republic accreditation and approval process continued to be comparable to that used by the United States to accredit its medical schools. At that meeting you also requested that the country submit a report of its activities regarding its accreditation of medical schools within the country.

That report was reviewed at the spring 2007

meeting, and as a result you asked the country to provide an additional report covering three issues reviewed at your fall 2007 meeting. Your review of that report determined that only one of three issues was satisfactorily addressed, and you requested an additional report that covered the two remaining issues, as well as an additional issue that you raised.

That report again was reviewed at the fall 2008 meeting with the determination that the country provide information on two issues, which would be reviewed at this meeting.

First, you asked the country to provide evidence that demonstrates that it collects and analyzes student outcomes measures.

The country responded by stating that it requires medical schools to achieve a 65 percent passage rate for all students taking the USMLE examination. It reiterated that as of January 1, 2008, all medical schools must require students from the United States to sign a form authorizing the release of USMLE test scores to the medical school in which they were enrolled. However, because this requirement had just been

implemented, the data collected is incomplete.

The country also stated that beginning in 2009 it will conduct unannounced visits to verify that test results are in fact being collected. Further, it notes that medical schools must submit an annual report that provides student data, including USMLE test information, and in fact the country provided a spreadsheet to demonstrate that it is collecting the data.

However, Department review of those spreadsheets observed that only dates were entered under the examination column, but no test results were entered. The staff also noted that no data had been entered for the majority of the students from the United States, that is, the dates for taking the test.

The country noted that it was going to meet with the accreditation committee to determine what standards would be developed regarding outcomes. The staff notes that it was not aware or has no knowledge about an accreditation committee and what role this entity plays in the evaluation of the country's medical schools.

Second, you requested that the Dominican Republic provide information regarding student retention each year for each medical university.

The country responded by providing a spreadsheet that identified withdrawal rates for its 10 medical schools. However, the country again stated that it needs to meet with the accreditation committee to determine the standards that it will use to evaluate that data.

In conclusion, the country has responded to the issues raised by the committee. However, you may want to explore with the country two issues: one, the involvement of the accreditation committee in establishing standards for medical schools and what role the accreditation committee plays in the evaluation of medical schools; and two, how the country intends to gather licensing examination test data for the USMLE and Puerto Rican licensing examinations.

Currently the country has not demonstrated that it collects and evaluates test data. It simply gathers - it has only provided evidence that it puts dates down for when I guess the test would be

administered.

And further, you may want to explore how it intends to evaluate licensing examiner's patient examination pass rates and retention rates.

Representatives from the country are here to answer your questions that you may have and that concludes my remarks, and I am now available to answer any questions.

DR. DOCKERY: Thanks, Mr. James. Are there members of the Committee before we ask the representatives from the Dominican Republic to approach the table? Are the representatives from the Dominican Republic here? Please join the table. Please state your names and use the microphone and I invite you to make any comments you would like to make.

DR. HUYKE: Good afternoon. My name is Emilio Huyke. I am the consultant for the Dominican Republic and I will be speaking on their behalf.

MS. CESPEDES: Greetings Mr. President and other members of this honorable board. For us, the Dominican delegation, it is a pleasure to be again before you. According to the request of this committee

we are delegation of Mr. Emilio Huyke. The mission of the coming, the spoken - asked the advisor of the ministry and of higher education. We would like to remind you once more of our compromise and best intention to cooperate with you. Thank you. My name is Rosa Cespedes. I am Director of Medical Education in the Dominican Republic.

DR. DOCKERY: Are there questions from members of the Committee before we go into executive session? **If we could ask our guests to please depart and they'll be called on when we open up again.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION