

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: We welcome the representatives from the Slovak Republic to come to the table and we'll invite Dr. Jennifer Hong-Silwany to give her report.

DR. HONG-SILWANY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Committee members. I will now summarize the analysis for the Accreditation Commission submitted on behalf of the government of the Slovak Republic. The materials are behind Tab H. I will refer to the Accrediting Commission as the Commission.

In September 2007, your Committee first determined that the standards and processes used by the Slovak Republic were comparable to standards of accreditation applied to M.D. programs in the United States. At that time you also requested that the Commission submit a report on its accrediting activities for your review. The staff analysis before you is based on the Commission's report. Based on its review of the report submitted by the Commission, Department staff concludes that the Slovak Republic has provided the information requested by your Committee. It appears that there have been no major changes in the standards and processes that were last determined to be comparable in September 2007. Department staff also concludes that the accreditation activities during the past two years appear to be consistent with the Committee's Guidelines.

The Slovak Republic currently has no schools participating in Title IV, HEA programs. Representatives from the Slovak Republic are here today, and this concludes my presentation, and I'm available to answer any questions you might have.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Thank you. We welcome the representatives from the Slovak Republic to make any preliminary remarks that you would like to make before we go into Executive Session?

DR. STRANSKY: No, we don't have. Thank you. I just want to thank for preparing preparations of analysis.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Thank you. With that, we'll ask the guests, please, to depart, and we'll go into Executive Session again.

[Executive Session begins:]

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Are there questions by members of the Committee? Dr. Munoz?

DR. MUNOZ: Just that in the two years since we initially determined comparability, I'm

curious to know, we've seen a number of countries who have utilized this process, not for the loan participation, but to develop or reform or change their own process in their country, and I'm curious to know whether you see this as an opportunity to do that, or whether you're anticipating applying as a part of the Federal loan program for support for U.S. students and residents to study in your country?

DR. STRANSKY: Of course, it was sort of help that we went through all, through all, I mean your Guidelines. We received them. We prepared the final report. I would like to say that the Guidelines and the regulations are very similar to European Union. So we have to follow criteria which are valid in whole European Union, and there is not so much of difference. They insist on onsite visits, for example, which was not before. Now, also during complex accreditation process which was carried last year, Accreditation Commission visited all the medical schools in Slovakia, and it is done in all other countries which belong to European Union.

So I think it was very positive that we attended and we prepared all materials for your Committee. It pushed us much more, much deeper to follow the standards of students as well. We started to do sort of retention knowledge tests in all four medical schools in Slovakia, which is done after the second year and at the beginning of the sixth year of medical studies. So now we can see that difference is, slight differences between all four medical schools. It's also I think very useful for us for our Accreditation Commission.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Thank you. Other questions, Dr. Munoz?

DR. MUNOZ: In a previous country's presentation, we also heard about they're changing their standards to World Federation standards and European standards as well. When you're speaking about European standards, is it the same standard or is it in addition to, because there are a couple of different standards out there?

DR. STRANSKY: Compared to U.S. or compared to our country?

DR. MUNOZ: Well, the World Federation has a set of standards.

DR. STRANSKY: Yes. Yes.

DR. MUNOZ: Which were deemed to be an example, but not requirement, that are being set, and within that the European Committee has a further stipulation of somewhat more stringent guidelines.

DR. STRANSKY: I think they follow it. I don't. I have to say I don't know exactly World standards because we follow the European standards, which are valid in European Union, and our standards have to be approximate as much as possible to European Union standards. This is what I know, but I have no idea really how in details look World criteria.

DR. MUNOZ: Another question, in terms of the two years since we last visited, as to how many of your clinical sites have you visited in that two year period? Have you visited all sites that are used by all medical schools?

DR. STRANSKY: Yes. Oh, during complex accreditation, they were created special subgroups for each medical school, and they spent two, three days at each medical school, which is located outside of the capital, and they visited all of them. The date, I think I put the dates of the visits also in this report. They were included there.

DR. MUNOZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Dr. Shah.

DR. SHAH: No questions.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Any other questions from members of the Committee? Is there a motion, Dr. Munoz?

DR. MUNOZ: Yes. I move that the Committee accept the interim report submitted by Slovakia, and look forward to a repeat report in September of 2011 or fall of 2011.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Is there a second?

DR. SHAH: Second.

[Motion made and seconded.]

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Everybody understand the question? All in favor, please say aye.
[Chorus of ayes.]

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Those opposed?

[No response.]

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Any abstentions?

[No response.]

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Thank you very much. Are there any comments that you would like to make, Dr. Krajcovic?

DR. KRAJCOVIC: No thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: No.

DR. STRANSKY: He was working with me in preparing all the documents for your Committee which was presented by Accreditation Committee.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Well, he's the Red Baron. He can do that.

DR. STRANSKY: He's—

[Laughter.]

DR. STRANSKY: He has very good English, and he's helping me because—

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: It's always a pleasure to see you Dr. Stransky.

DR. STRANSKY: Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Welcome to go home.

DR. KRAJCOVIC: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DOCKERY: Thank you.

[Executive session concludes.]