



Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee

Members Present:

Bryan Potter (OK), *Chairman*; Eugene Argo (GA); Llyn Lloyd (AZ).

Member Henry Cade (IL) was not in attendance.

Others Present:

Carmen Catizone, *Executive Director*, Beth Aylward, Mary Jo Hunst, Sharon Stach, and Connie Roth, *NABP Staff*.

Introduction:

The Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC) met January 5, 1991, at NABP Headquarters in Park Ridge, Illinois, to review the activities of the examination programs over the past year and plan for the upcoming year.

Program Update

The Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Examination (FPGEE) is the only NABP/NABPF examination that remains with an outside testing contractor. This year another two-year agreement was signed with American College Testing Programs (ACT) to assist in the development and administration of the FPGEE in 1991 and 1992.

Having brought both NABPLEX and FDLE in-house, NABP staff now has the knowledge and resources to bring this third program in-house. The FPGEC asked that staff develop a plan which would bring the FPGEE program entirely in-house following the 1992 administration. This plan will include recommendations for revising the examination's blueprint, as well as a passing score study.

While revenues from the FPGEE covered expenses incurred for the program in 1990, the FPGEC continues to plan for administration of the examination only two years in advance. Among other things, the Committee is uncertain about how the proposed change to an "all PharmD" degree will affect the numbers of candidates who will be taking the FPGEE in the future. State boards of pharmacy and applicants will be notified at least two years in advance, however, should the decision be made to discontinue the examination.

Acceptance of FPGEC Certification as a prerequisite for licensure was increased to 31 state boards of pharmacy this year, with Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, North Carolina, and West Virginia joining the program.

1990 Administration

This year's FPGEE was administered December 1, 1990, at the O'Hare Expo Center in Rosemont, Illinois, in the vicinity of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Of the 530 candidates who were tested, 383 or 72.3 percent passed the exam, and 147 or 27.7 percent failed. The 72.3 percent passing rate represents a seven percent increase over 1989 in the number of candidates who passed the examination. Seventy-four percent of this year's examinees were first-time candidates.

The 1990 examination marked the first year in which the exam was administered in only one site. Due to the added control that staff and ACT have over test sites, security of materials, and administration procedures, the FPGEC voted to continue administering the exam in one central site each year.

Field Testing

Field testing of new FPGEE questions was conducted once again this year for development of the 1991 and 1992 examinations. In February 1991, 25 colleges of pharmacy tried out new exam questions on 959 students. This year, as in past years, the five highest scoring candidates on the field test will each receive an award of \$100 in recognition of their efforts, while the next five highest scoring candidates will each receive \$50. The Foundation Board of Directors has proposed a new award schedule, in hopes that it will encourage more students and faculty to participate in this important effort.

New Policies

As the pool of foreign graduates has continued to grow over the past several years, NABP staff has had to streamline procedures for maintaining the increased number of candidate files. The Committee addressed several issues resulting from the burgeoning number of examination applications, and the following policy changes were recommended to the NABP Foundation Board of Directors for approval:

1. Candidates who have applied for the FPGEE but have not been accepted to take the examination prior to the deadline, will be allowed to defer taking the examination up to two years. Candidates who have applied for the FPGEE and have been accepted may defer only one year; i.e. if they choose not to take the examination in the year in which they are accepted, they must either take it the following year or reapply.
2. FPGEE candidates who have not communicated with the FPGEC for two years or longer, or who have been scheduled to take the FPGEE but do not sit for the examination nor notify the FPGEC, in writing, of the reason before or within two weeks after the administration, will be notified, in writing, that their file will be closed in 90 days. An appeal of the decision may be made, in writing, by the candidate.
3. In order to earn FPGEC Certification, candidates must obtain passing "Test of English as a Foreign Language" (TOEFL) and FPGEE scores within two years of each other.

Acknowledgement

Again this year, the Committee gratefully acknowledges the efforts of the college of pharmacy staff and students who participated in field testing for the FPGEE. Their continued assistance is key to the validation of this very important examination. Also, our special thanks to the volunteers who served on the FPGEE Steering Committee for developing and reviewing the examinations.