Executive Council Meeting – April 22, 2020, 5-6 PM EST/4-5 PM CST/3-4 PM MST

Council of Specialties

Minutes submitted by Julia Phillips, Secretary

Present: Karen Farrell, President, Rick Seime, Past President, Sally Barlow, Vice President, Victor Molinari, Treasurer, Julia Phillips, Secretary

1. ABPP Board of Trustees provided a formal response to our inquiry, including official clarification to CoS inquiry re. the following questions:

 What is the definition of a Specialty?

 What is the definition of a Subspecialty?

 How is it determined whether a Special Interest Group (SIG) should seek Specialty versus

Subspecialty status?

 We note that no new specialty board has been approved by ABPP since 2014. Has a limit been

reached regarding the number of Specialty Boards within ABPP?

 Where could a group interested in applying for ABPP recognition (either as Specialty or

Subspecialty) find this information?

Discussed EC reactions to the response – overall, it clearly is a difficult, confusing issue to make a determination between a specialty and subspecialty for the field. There are CRSSPP recognized specialties that ABPP does not recognize and the question remains, when a specialty is recognized by CRSSPP, what are the factors that make ABPP not recognize them? It was suggested that it may be a financial issue regarding having enough people who would actually apply to be board certified. Credentialing involves a lot of time and money. ABPP is grappling with this issue right now – it was, perhaps, glossed over for the past few years. There are both institutional and individual challenges in seeking ABPP – we are more interested in institutional level challenges. Ultimately, the question remains of how ABPP distinguishes between specialty and subspecialty. The answer is vague and that perhaps is the state of the field. We decided that our plan will be to write letter, thank ABPP BoT for responding to us, make statement that distinctions between specialty and subspecialty are complex. We hope that CoS, ABPP, CRSPPP can continue to work together to align their definitions of specialty and subspecialty for the betterment of the field. Victor will draft response letter to ABPP BoT.

1. Discussed Rick’s rewrite of the revised letter for endorsement by signatory organizations requested by the Planning and Implementation Task Force, Summit 4. Plan: we will each review both letters within the next week as not all of us have had a chance to review them yet, send comments by email, revise drafts in the interim, and talk about it at the next meeting.
2. Karen gave report to CRSSPP as liaison and attended a meeting in which there was discussion about helping programs learn to use the Taxonomy to describe their programs. Tongue in cheek and for the record, Karen wants it known that Rick told her it would be a 20 minute report and it turned out to be a 5 hour long, but very interesting, meeting.
3. Discussed CRSSPP public comment solicitation. Karen thanked Rick for doing the content of the comments and has partially posted one comment. She had multiple challenges, technologically speaking. Karen will consult with Kristen Knight-Griffin for assistance to post the remaining comments.