

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

John M. Hanley, Ph.D.

Western Michigan University

Good morning and welcome everyone! We have a challenging agenda for this 2002 meeting of the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders. I think though, that our return to Palm Springs and the Riviera resort will allow our activities to be fruitful, comfortable, and enjoyable.

It is a privilege to serve this distinguished group of individuals as President of the Council. During my thirteen years as a participant in the Council's activities, I have looked forward to this professional meeting more than any other because I found a supportive and challenging atmosphere in which I could learn from the experiences - both successes and failures of course- of my colleagues. I came to the meeting each year as a departmental chair who faced significant challenges in my university. I was often overwhelmed and frustrated with the burdens placed upon me - the midlevel manager--- caught between the demands of higher administration and the needs of my productive and dedicated faculty. I was in need of support and insight regarding the academic issues related to accreditation and credentialing budgetary and operational issues, and curricular/programmatic decisions. Most importantly, I was in search of better means to educate our students in a quality fashion. In each of my years in attendance, I emerged, feeling consoled that I was enduring the same problems of other council members. I have found that my colleagues in the Council offered approached and strategies that I could implement as very useful management strategies. I have always departed with a feeling of relief. "I am not alone." I discovered that each council member had something important to offer in our discussions and debates of very important issues. The counseling we give to one another, the debates and information conveyed regarding issues important to us, and the spark of enthusiasm I experienced following my encounters at this meeting left me refreshed and better prepared to face my problems in my university. I offer these initial comments as part of

my welcome to our first time attendees. You will experience some of the same feelings I have described. Most importantly, though, you will have the opportunity to contribute, to share your insights regarding the important issues that face us---Welcome!

Also, I want to welcome our corporate sponsors at this year's conference. They look forward to visiting with you during the meeting. This year, our sponsors are

- Allyn & Bacon
- Blue Tree Publishing
- Caldwell Publishing Company
- Content Scan
- Kay Elemetrics
- Lippincott, Williams and Wilkens
- Singular Delmar Learning
- Thinking Publications, and
- The Psychological Corporation

In a few moments, I will provide an overview regarding the Council's activities during the past year, and I will offer some personal comments related to the future challenges which we face. Before I do that, I would like to express my gratitude to some key people who have represented the Council with dedicated service and with quality.

First, I would like to introduce your current Executive Board. Past President Jerry Carney. Thank you for your excellent leadership Jerry; President-Elect Rick Talbott-- I look forward to your leadership of the Council; Secretary Hariette Gregg; Treasurer Mick McNeil; Vice President for Communications Trish Hargrove; Vice President for Research and Academic Development Kim Oller; Vice President for Professional Development Jim Mahshie; and Vice President for Standards and Credentials John Saxman . I extend a special thanks to Mary Ambroe and Frances Laven. Their loyal service to the Council as its management firm has helped us to operate in an efficient fashion for many years. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with such a

competent, insightful, and dedicated group of individuals. You should be proud to have this excellent team working for you!

I wish to thank the Conference Program Committee for its hard work. You unselfishly toil behind the scenes to make this important meeting happen. You are charged to design an agenda that perfectly satisfies everyone. You must provide excellent weather, enjoyable social events, and entertainment. Other than that, it's a fairly routine committee assignment. Thanks Jim Mahshie, Brooke Hallowell, Nancy Alarcon and Fran Laven for your hard work

I would like to provide you with a brief update on the activities of the Council and the Executive Board during the past year. Our committees, both standing and ad hoc, have been very busy, and you will get a sense of the tremendous effort they have put forth at this meeting. Also, you have access to a vast amount of very useful information through the Council website. The *Proceedings* of last year's meeting, the very valuable data set obtained and compiled from the survey of member institutions, and data gathered through the efforts of the Joint ad hoc Committee on the Doctoral Shortage represent the efforts your committees have expended to benefit the Council and its members.

Two primary issues, the doctoral shortage and the mechanisms being developed to assess compliance with the new standards have dominated our activities during the past year. These issues will also dominate the interactions that take place at this meeting. However, we have also addressed many other issues in our various executive board meetings and visits with other professional organizations and stakeholders.

It has been a pleasure to work with the current executive board, and I look forward to my final year of service on the Board. In July, Rick Talbott will become the Council President. Hariette Gregg will continue as Secretary; Trish Hargrove will again serve as Vice President for Communications, and I will serve as Past-President. Others will be completing their service on the Board. Jerry Carney will complete his term as

Past President and will be remembered for his effective leadership and contributions to the Council. Mick McNeil completes a successful term as our Treasurer, and he leaves us in a fiscally healthy state. John Saxman, as Vice President for Standards and Credentials, has provided us with excellent service and has shared his valued perspective as a member who has worked hard with the Council since its inception. In fact, John organized the program for the initial Council meeting in 1980. Kim Oller has worked very hard as Vice President for Research and Academic Development. Kim has taken the lead for the Council as we gathered information regarding the doctoral shortage and compiled a tremendous amount of information that will be discussed at this meeting. Kim also took a leadership role in the establishment and operation of the Joint ad hoc Committee on the Doctoral Shortage. Jim Mahshie completes his term as Vice President for Professional Development and will be replaced by Brooke Hallowell. Jim has worked very hard for the Council, and his hard work is reflected in his work with the conference committee to organize the exciting program for this meeting. Jim, along with conference planning committee members Brooke Hallowell, Nancy Alarcon, and Fran Laven are to be commended for their dedicated work.

Since we have a very full agenda for our meeting, I will spend only a few moments overviewing our activities during the past year. I would also like to remind you that the Council website, through the excellent management of Maurice Mendel, contains updated information regarding activities of the Council. Minutes of our meetings, proceedings of the conference, status reports, and the very important council survey data are easily accessible on the website.

The Executive Board held its Fall meeting on November 14 at the ASHA convention in New Orleans. The Winter meeting took place on January 28, and the Spring meeting took place yesterday morning. Representative from the Executive Board also met with the ASHA Executive Board on January 13-14, 2002, and we met with Angela Loavenbruck of the AAA in Chicago on March 28 of this year. These have proven to be very valuable meetings which have allowed us to update one another regarding our activities, the issues being addressed by each professional group, and the

issues we can address in a cooperative or joint fashion. The meeting with the ASHA board focused on discussion of the doctoral shortage, academic assessment, the SLP Assistants Program, the Hearing Health Care Team initiative, CAA activities, the Praxis examination, and funding for research and training initiatives.

In the Council meeting with the AAA President Loavenbruck, a variety of topics were discussed including the potential to engage in joint activities regarding personnel shortages, outcomes/performance/and practice models, and access to MEDICARE funds. President Loavenbruck also discussed issues being pursued by the AAA including accreditation of AuD programs, certification/licensure concerns of audiologists, and the AAA commitment to establish accreditation standards for the AuD degree. President Loavenbruck will provide a brief update to you at our Friday morning meeting.

The Joint ad hoc Committee on the Doctoral Shortage met in Cincinnati on November 30-December 1. The meeting was chaired by Kim Oller and Kim Wilcox and focused on the development of overriding strategies to address the doctoral shortage problem. One outcome of the meeting was the establishment of the discussion on the doctoral shortage which will take place today from 2:00-3:15 and in the group discussion from 3:45-5:30.

Other important work of the Council was completed by the Nominations Committee. Judy Brasseur, Nick Bankson, and Jerry Carney developed a fine pool of nominees for the Offices of President-Elect and Treasurer of the Executive Board. Honors and Awards Committee members Steve Oshrin, Diane Meyer and Cindy Bartlett coordinated the nominations and recommendations for awards which were approved by the Executive Board prior to this meeting.

As you engage in the process of this meeting, I hope you will constantly glimpse into the future. What flies in the winds that blowing in the future? Will we succeed in changing the nature of the doctoral shortage? Will the standards for accreditation and practice adapt to or allow for significant change in the nature of our academic mission?

In my personal attempt to visualize the possible nature of the academy in the future, I see three different facets of our existence that will be addressed and probably changed if we are to adapt in a positive direction.

1. Program Viability

As the Council of Academic Programs, the ASHA, the SID 10, and other focus groups address the doctoral shortage and seek solutions to the problem, it is likely that change will be necessary. A reduction in the number of student graduates entering the profession will likely occur. The demand for services will remain as it is or will increase. We are also seeing another phenomenon occurring related to the doctoral shortage. Programs are closing or will be closing because they cannot recruit sufficient quality faculty to fill vacancies. Programs with a limited number of faculty and unfilled vacancies are facing very serious and real pressures ranging from inability to meet professional accreditation demands to the constant intra-university expectations to increase credit hour productivity, maintain a productive scholarly agenda, and somehow become less costly. How are we to address this problem? Let nature take its course? Seek alternative models for educating our students? Develop a more flexible system whereby some programs might be specialty accredited in focused areas of communication sciences and disorders? The Council, and you as its members, must take a close look at this very complex issue. Continued closure of programs will ultimately force us to change the way we function in academia. Our mission, to maintain a strong science base and to educate professionals, will be challenged.

2. Scope Of Practice And Standards

In the context of a growing doctoral shortage, we must revisit the ever increasing expectations placed upon our academic programs. The current scope of practice, recently approved, and the new standards for accreditation and certification will have a tremendous impact on the educational models we are using. I have been frequently approached by Council members who ask “How can we continue to educate our

students to competently handle the ever broadening scope of practice.” Of course, the scope of practice is intimately related to the development and enforcement of standards, both academic and clinical in nature. Personally, I have been quite impressed with the changes in the standards and the competency based accountabilities attached to them. Ongoing formative assessments and outcome based performance measures allow us to constantly evaluate and retool when necessary. A discussion of the standards and suggestions for establishing accountabilities will be one of the three main targets of this meeting, and I think we will leave this meeting with a large amount of useful information, useful suggestions, and guidelines to use during this process. Just last week, the Council on Academic Accreditation forwarded a “Report Addendum” and Guidelines which you can use in your report materials. The Council on Academic Accreditation and the Council for Clinical Certification will be facing their own challenges as they engage in the implementation of the accreditation and site visit review process while attempting to conform to the spirit of this new process. I suggest that the Council, during the next three or four years, institutionalize a process by which we carefully monitor the accreditation review process and offer our input to the CAA and CFCC to help those groups complete their own formative assessment of the oversight process. While individual programs should provide feedback regarding the process, we should also convey the Council’s position following focused deliberation and discussion of the process as part of the next several annual conferences.

3. The Entry Level For Practice

The entry level for the practice of audiology will soon become the doctoral degree. The consequences of this change will need to be carefully evaluated during the next several years. Program quality, changes in the standards of accreditation, competition for graduate students between Ph.D. granting programs and professional doctoral granting programs will change the way academic programs educate students. The consumer will also see changes in the way services are delivered. Will there be serious consideration given to change the entry level for practice in speech-language pathology? What would be the impact of such a change? Will such changes

undermine the strong science base of the professions? This issue will continue to be debated in the future. As members of academic institutions, we must be a strong force in those discussions and debates.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we must deal with many difficult issues during the next several years. We will probably be challenged and possibly threatened like we have never been before. Let us take those challenges together. We do have miles to go before we sleep. Let us now engage the issues facing us at this meeting.

Thank you.

***There is no present or future, only the past, happening over and over again---
now!!!”***

Eugene O’Neill, A Moon for the Misbegotten

***I can show you what is left after the pride, passion, agony, and bemused
aspiration, what is left is in our hands.”***

Robert Penn Warren, World Enough and Time, Random House, 1950