



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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White Paper on academic relations ready for distribution

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Members of the Casualty Actuarial Society, Society of Actuaries, Canadian Institute of Actuaries, and the Actuarial Faculty Forum should receive by the end of April a copy of “A Partnership between the Academic Community and the Actuarial Profession” White Paper for their review and comment. This document is the culmination of the work of the Joint CAS, CIA, SOA Task Force on Academic Relations. The task force was formed in mid-1998 to study the current academic/actuarial profession relationship and to identify initiatives that could enhance the relationship. In the paper, the task force articulates its vision of what the academic/actuarial profession partnership could be by 2005 and lists the partnership’s objectives and initiatives to make the vision a reality.

Before the leadership groups of the three organizations take action, they want their memberships to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the ideas presented in the White Paper. In

the White Paper’s cover letter signed by SOA President Norman Crowder, CAS President Alice Gannon and CIA President Stuart Wason, they state, “The Boards have not had full discussion of the content of the White Paper, and members should not interpret the distribution of the paper to be an endorsement of the vision or recommendations in the paper.” The letter also states that some ideas in the paper — such as an expanded role for universities in the basic education of actuaries — will cause controversy. “We hope that the controversial nature of these [basic education] issues will not prevent careful review and comment on the other areas of the proposed partnership. ... They are also of critical importance to the profession. ...”

Completion of the White Paper signals the dissolution of this task force, which was chaired by Steve Radcliffe. The CAS was represented on the task force by Fred Kilbourne, Dale Porfilio and Bill Wilkins; the CIA by Rob Brown, Andre Premont and Kurt K.

von Schilling; and the SOA by Bryan Hearsey, Jim Hickman, and Jim MacGinnitie.

A new Joint CIA, SOA, SOA Committee on Academic Relations has been formed to encourage and facilitate a partnership between the actuarial profession and the academic community. Member comments on the White Paper will be forwarded to this committee for their consideration as they develop recommended actions to enhance the partnership. At this writing, members of the new committee from the CAS are Dale Porfilio (chair), Nasser Hadidi, Don Mango, and Alice Underwood; from the CIA, Kurt K. von Schilling; and from the SOA, Bryan Hearsey, Dick London, and Catherine Wallach. Comments related to the alternative basic education issues will also be referred to a new SOA Task Force on Education and Qualification 2005, which will have liaisons from the CAS and CIA, and to the CAS Education and Policy Committee.

The White Paper and a feedback form will also be accessible from the three organizations’ Web sites: CAS — www.casact.org; CIA — www.actuaries.ca. SOA — www.soa.org.

Call for 2000-2001 Woody Scholarship applicants

The Actuarial Education and Research Fund (AERF) announces the 5th annual Woody Scholarship Program, which awards four \$2,000 scholarships to undergraduate students with senior standing.

Applicants must rank in the top quartile of their class and have successfully completed one actuarial examination. As part of the application, each student must write a brief essay and be recommended by one of their professors. Students also will be judged on

leadership as demonstrated through extracurricular activities. Only one application from each school is permitted.

Deadline for applications is June 30, 2000. Winners will be notified by August 31.

Applications are available on the SOA Web site at www.soa.org/educationandexaminations and at the AERF Web site at www.aerf.org/grants&competitions or from Paulette Haberstroh at the SOA office (tel: 847/706-3584; fax: 847/706-3599; e-mail: phaberstroh@soa.org)

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J. Ross Adams
FSA 1949, MAAA 1965

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FSA 1967, MAAA 1966

John J. Overend
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