AAMC Conference – San Antonio
OSR Overview
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We arrived in San Antonio on Thursday evening. We took a cab from the airport to our hotel and checked in. After getting settled, we decided to walk around down by the river walk and check out the city. Meetings started early Friday morning with welcome sessions for both the returning OSR members and the new ones. Breakfast was served at these meetings and they discussed what OSR is and what is expected of its members. They also gave us some time to meet other students from other schools and time to get to know each other. These sessions were followed by regional meetings, where national agendas and the outlook for the weekend were discussed. Reports were given by each of the liaisons of the different national committees. We went around the room as well and introduced ourselves to the group. The session concluded with some time for general discussion and any information a member would like to share. Breakout sessions followed the regional meetings. The breakout session that we enjoyed the most was the session on Loan Repayment. It was very informative and helped us understand what our loans meant to us down the road. They discussed the changes that were being made to the rules and options of repayment and how that would affect the different levels of students. They gave a very informative lecture and resources to find more information. We definitely had a better understanding of our loans and way to schedule repayment after this talk. There were more regional meetings in the afternoon where we talked about legislative affairs and the conflicts of expanding class sizes and satellite campuses. This was interesting to hear. Students discussed the aggravation expanding
class sizes caused to current students and how the growing number of visiting students
takes spots from home students. This is where the satellite campus discussion developed.
This led to talks about whether schools would make sure that each campus gets the same
amount and type of knowledge on their rotations. However, a lot of us realize that this is
difficult due to the changes in types of population and culture on the different campuses.
Saturday included more regional meetings and some breakout sessions on
professionalism and the conflict of interest with pharmaceutical companies. These were
followed by other breakout sessions in the afternoon. We had dinner with members of
UMKC faculty that night and discussed what we have learned thus far and ways to
improve our school. These initial discussions will hopefully lead to more meetings and
ultimately changes in the way we run things here at UMKC. We sealed up the
conference with voting for national delegates Sunday morning. Before leaving for the
airport, we walked through the many booths where companies and schools presented
different curriculums and programs. And of course there were some groups giving away
the many pens and other fun toys for free. We left San Antonio early Sunday afternoon
and arrived back in Kansas City late Sunday afternoon. It was a great conference and we
enjoyed representing UMKC.