

**Minutes of the Board of Regents
of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**

**Meeting No. 162
February 5, 2008**

The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences met on February 5, 2008, at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting date and agenda were published in the Federal Register and each Regent was duly notified prior to the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members and advisors were in attendance:

Board Members

Everett Alvarez, Jr., J.D., Chair
Linda J. Stierle, M.S.N., R.N., CNAA, Vice Chair
Otis W. Brawley, M.D., Member
Charles L. Rice, M.D., President, USU
S. Ward Casscells, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
VADM Adam M. Robinson, Jr., MC, USN, Surgeon General, U.S. Navy
Maj Gen Melissa Rank, USAF, NC, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force
RADM Carol A. Romano, USPHS, representing the Acting Surgeon General of the United States
COL(P) Rhonda L. Cornum, MC, USA, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Army
Jack W. Smith, M.D., representing the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

Advisors to the Board

Larry W. Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, USU
COL Bruce A. Schoneboom, AN, USA, Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, USU
Maj Gen Gar S. Graham, USAF, DC, Commander, 79th Medical Wing
RDML Richard R. Jeffries, MC, USN, Commander, National Naval Medical Center
CAPT Louis Damiano, MC, USN, representing the Commander, Walter Reed Army Health Care System
Terry C. Pellmar, Ph.D., representing the Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
John E. Baker, J.D., General Counsel, USU

AWARD PRESENTATION

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Rice presented the Distinguished Service Medal to the Honorable Sharon A. Falkenheimer in recognition of her contributions to the Board of Regents and the university. Dr. Falkenheimer served as a member of the Board from May 2003 to July 2007.

INTRODUCTION

Colonel Wempe introduced Master Chief Petty Officer Clinton Garrett, USU's new Senior Enlisted Leader. Master Chief Garrett assumed his duties on January 11, 2008, and is looking forward to increasing awareness of educational opportunities among enlisted personnel.

MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT

Following welcoming remarks, Mr. Alvarez presented matters of general consent which consisted of the following items:

- Meeting dates for the coming year
- Minutes of the November 5, 2007, meeting of the Committee of the Whole
- Minutes of the November 6, 2007, Board of Regents Meeting
- Action taken by the Board since the November 2007 meeting. Ms. Scheman reported for the record the approval of the University Medal for Brig Gen William T. Bester, USA (Ret) in recognition of his service to the university as Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing. This action occurred during the closed portion of the November 6, 2007, Board of Regents Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the matters of general consent as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Rice opened his report by summarizing a current proposal to establish an Air Force Postgraduate School of Dentistry in San Antonio, Texas. He introduced Colonel Grant Hartup, whose brief on the proposal included following points:

- Each of the armed services has a two-year program in advanced dentistry education
- Until 1981, the Air Force awarded a master's degree at the program's conclusion through an affiliation with the University of Texas. The Navy's program is currently affiliated with George Washington University, and the Army's program is currently unaffiliated with a degree-granting institution
- The Air Force Military Dental Service seeks to partner with USU and once again award a master's degree upon program completion.
 - The current program, located at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, is fully accredited by the American Dental Association
 - Upon completion of program requirements, it is proposed that USU award a Master of Science in Comprehensive Dentistry
 - Favorable points include cost effectiveness, the commitment of the Services and the university to academic excellence and a military-unique curriculum, and the support of USU as the preferred source of uniformed healthcare education
- Next steps include
 - Formal presentation and approval by Air Force medical leadership, the USU Board of Regents, and university's accreditation agency
 - Establishing a USU Postgraduate School of Dentistry offering just one program, and establishing this on a San Antonio "campus"

Subsequent points included the following:

- Dr. Dale Smith, Acting Senior Vice President, said the accreditation issue is the most pertinent for the university
- Admiral Robinson questioned the need for each Service to have its own post-graduate dental school and reported that an expansion of the current Navy program to include all three Services has been discussed

- Dr. Rice reported that a more inclusive program model is a possibility
- General agreement that opportunities for post-graduate education increase retention among uniformed dentists and doctors

Mr. Alvarez agreed that the timeline as presented was probably optimistic in light of accreditation requirements, the Board's bylaws, and required staff work. Further discussion will occur at the May 2008 Board of Regents Meeting.

The President's Report also included the following:

- The university participated in the 2008 Military Health System Conference at the end of January. USU's contributions included a Graduate Medical Education Research Poster Session with over 100 presentations, a well-attended alumni reception, and the presentation of a university award for excellence in medical education to Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington, and to Wright Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center in Fairborn, Ohio
- Highlights from December travel to Germany and Afghanistan which included meeting with alumni, touring medical facilities, and visiting with a number of patients
- Compliments to Ms. Mary Dix, Special Assistant to the President, as Building E construction remains on schedule and on budget

BOARD ACTIONS

Degree Granting – Graduate Education

Dr. Metcalf presented for certification three candidates to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, one candidate to receive the degree of Master of Science, and two candidates to receive the degree of Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Metcalf and to recommend that the President confer the degrees as stated.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Dr. Laughlin presented the recommendations made by the School of Medicine Committee of Appointments, Promotion and Tenure at a meeting on December 19, 2007. Seven individuals were recommended for faculty appointments, promotions or tenure.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendations of the Committee as presented by Dr. Laughlin and recommend that the President implement the actions as stated.

Dr. Laughlin presented Vice Admiral Adam Robinson and Lieutenant General James Roudebush for term limited appointments to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Military Medicine, as is customary for Surgeons General.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendation as presented by Dr. Laughlin and to recommend that the President implement the actions as stated.

Dr. Laughlin requested Board concurrence on the selection of Jeffrey M. Harmon, Ph.D., as the new Chair, Department of Pharmacology.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the selection as presented by Dr. Laughlin.

Colonel Schoneboom presented a recommendation made by the Graduate School of Nursing Committee of Appointments, Promotion and Tenure at a meeting on December 7, 2007. It was recommended that RADM Carol A. Romano, USPHS, RN, be appointed to the rank of Adjunct Associate Professor.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendation of the Committee as presented by Colonel Schoneboom and recommend that the President implement the action.

Award Nomination

Dr. Rice presented a recommendation that the USUHS Exceptional Service Medal be awarded to Dennis R. Stutz for his exemplary service as Director, Center for Multidisciplinary Services. This award was unanimously approved by the Committee for Names and Honors on October 24, 2007.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendation as presented by Dr. Rice.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Dr. Williams reiterated sections of the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act directly affecting faculty salaries and their comparability with other medical schools as identified by the Secretary of Defense. On behalf of the Faculty Senate he thanked the Board of Regents, its Chair, and the University President.

Dr. Williams reported that work also continues on Clinical Educator Awards, which would recognize outstanding non-billeted faculty; and on a faculty mentoring initiative, which is a joint effort with the USU Office of Faculty Development.

PRESENTATION: 2008 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. Baker summarized six provisions in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act which affect USU and their probable impact. These provisions are listed below:

- Sec. 522 gives Service Secretaries the authority to reduce the obligation of someone in a reserve or national guard unit if that person is selected to be a medical student at USU or through the Health Professions Scholarship Program
- Sec. 524 allows uniformed medical students with prior active service above the O-1 level to keep their higher level of basic pay even though their rank as a medical student at USU remains O-1
- Sec. 1116 authorizes increased annual compensation for USU faculty and staff not to exceed that of the President of the United States

- Sec. 954 concerns the USU Board of Regents and amends 10 U.S.C. § 2113(a) as follows:
 - Language is updated and changes references from the “Dean of the University” to the “President of the University”
 - Regents appointed from civilian life will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense rather than the President of the United States
 - Appointed members may receive compensation as determined by the Secretary of Defense rather than a maximum of \$100 per day
- Sec. 955 requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a plan to Congress establishing a School of Nursing in USU. The plan must be developed in consultation with the Board of Regents and the Service Secretaries, and ensure that current Graduate School of Nursing programs continue
- Sec. 722 requires that the President establish a Joint Pathology Center within the Department of Defense or another Federal agency

After the presentation Dr. Casscells shared several observations. His remarks included the following:

- The change in appointment authority for members of the Board is a positive one in that it will result in a full complement of Regents for USU
- Although the primary focus of the military health system supports the Department’s military mission, the increased emphasis on disaster medicine and in humanitarian efforts is electrifying
- Psychological resilience and care is currently the most critical challenge in international health and the university’s role in addressing this challenge is primary
- Other areas of opportunity for USU include information technology, biotechnology, prosthetics research, biodefense and medical ethics
- The university can become the epicenter of world health education

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dean’s Report, School of Medicine

Dr. Laughlin reported that the process by which USU is re-accredited as a school of medicine by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education is almost completed. Although the university will receive its formal evaluation letter in mid-February, an extremely positive draft report has been received. Other topics in Dr. Laughlin’s report included the following:

- Dr. William Haffner has been appointed Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Development. In conjunction with the Faculty Senate, this initiative is currently focusing on non-billeted faculty and the role of academic chairs
- Although applications to the School of Medicine have increased this year, the ability of the Health Professions Scholarship Program to offer a monetary bonus to participants may affect future applicant pools
- The National Capital Consortium incorporates all the university’s graduate medical education programs in metropolitan D.C. military treatment facilities. Current challenges to these programs include changes in patient numbers and mix due to war casualties, Tricare eligibility requirements, and the deployment of teaching faculty

- The chair search for the Department of Internal Medicine is almost completed while searches are just beginning for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics

Dr. Laughlin asked that the Board consider a process by which potential faculty can be presented between quarterly meetings when necessary. Following discussion, it was agreed that such action can be taken by notation voting if accompanied by appropriate notice and documentation.

Dean's Report, Graduate School of Nursing

Following an update by Dr. Rice on the Graduate School of Nursing Dean Search, COL Schoneboom addressed the topics below:

- Faculty searches are ongoing for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and the Nurse Anesthesia Program
- The Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program will begin this year
- The Federal Nursing Service Chiefs have been briefed on the resources required to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in each of two models -- one in residence and one using distance learning to a large extent
- The annual self evaluation of the Ph.D. in Nursing Science Program, as requested by the Board at the program's inception. The evaluation uses criteria that are consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Quality Indicators for Doctoral Education. Candidates' research topics were highlighted, as were the 13 currently funded research projects of faculty members.
- LTC Wanda Jenkins, Commandant, Graduate School of Nursing, will be leaving this summer as it is the end of her tour

USU Brigade

COL Wempe summarized current staffing issues in the Office of the Commandant, School of Medicine, which include a significant turnover in personnel and an increase in office responsibilities. He also reviewed a proposal that would involve chaplain candidates in the annual Bushmaster Training Exercise at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, as current patient care models include spiritual care. In conclusion, COL Wempe stressed the importance to USU recruiting efforts of regularly informing undergraduate professors of military science about the university.

Finance and Administration

The following topics were included in Mr. Rice's report to the Board:

- USU's conversion to the National Security Personnel System has been moved to March 16, 2008. The initial performance period will conclude on September 30, 2008, and the first pay-out, based on performance rather than longevity, will occur in January 2009
- The university has received its full funding authority for FY 2008 from the Tricare Management Activity
- A modified version of the Department's Defense Travel System was put into practice at the university in October 2007. This system, which will be fully online by Summer 2008, streamlines the travel process and approves accountability

- An overview of USU Health and Safety activities highlighted no violations in two recent audits concerning radiation safety and the consolidation of the Center for Disease Control Select Agent Program and the chemical waste program, each of which existed previously at both the university and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute

Budget

Mr. Tinling reported that funding now flows directly to USU from the Tricare Management Activity rather than first through the Department of the Navy. This change, which began October 1, 2007, improves communication and reduces delays in funds allocation. Mr. Tinling also said the university is requesting a baseline transfer of funds for work regularly done for the Services.

PRESENTATION: Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health

Dr. Kaminsky presented an overview of the Congressional mandate concerning traumatic brain injury and psychological health and the resulting plans for clinical care and research. His remarks included following points:

- The FY 2007 Supplemental Defense Bill contained \$600 million for clinical care and clinical services and \$300 million for research. Funds in both of these appropriations were split evenly between traumatic brain injury and psychological health
- The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs was asked to develop a plan which addressed Department needs in the areas of clinical care and clinical services; currently about \$140 million remains undistributed
- The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program at Fort Detrick was assigned to develop a plan addressing research needs regarding traumatic brain injury and psychological health as well as mechanisms for awarding research money
- The research program consists of four broad areas: protection/prevention, injury assessment, clinical management, and lifetime care coordination
- Research announcements ranged from relatively small concept awards to large research and clinical consortium awards; there were over 70 proposals submitted by USU faculty
- A Department Center of Excellence for Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health will be located on the campus of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. USU is involved in establishing the center's goals and university programs in deployment health, deployment psychology and disaster psychiatry will be associated with the center in various degrees

In response to questions, both Dr. Kaminsky and Dr. Smith described the ongoing coordination between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in establishing the new Center of Excellence.

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Alvarez noted the resignation of the Honorable William C. De La Peña from the Board of Regents on November 6, 2007. In recognition of his years of service to the university, the Board of Regents

Upon motion duly made and seconded,

Voted by voice vote: To award William C. De La Peña, M.D., the Distinguished Service Medal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

SUBMITTED:



Carol R. Scheman
Acting Executive Secretary, Board of Regents

APPROVED:



Everett Alvarez, Jr.
Chair, Board of Regents

Prepared by Janet S. Taylor