

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

**Meeting No. 159  
May 18, 2007**

The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences met on May 18, 2007, 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 10:00 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  
Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., Member  
Sharon A. Falkenheimer, M.D., M.P.H., Member  
Charles L. Rice, M.D., President, USU  
S. Ward Casscells, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs  
RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, Acting Surgeon General of the United States  
MG Gale S. Pollock, MC, USA, Acting Surgeon General, U.S. Army  
CAPT Roberto Quinones, MSC, USN, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy  
Col Arnyce R. Pock, USAF, MC, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force

Advisors to the Board

GEN Thomas R. Morgan, USMC (Ret), Military Advisor to the Board  
Larry W. Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, USU  
COL Patricia K. Lillis-Hearne, MC, USA, Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute  
Ernest L. Hepler, Jr., Ph.D., representing the Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, USU  
Brig Gen Gar S. Graham, USAF, DC, Commander, 79<sup>th</sup> Medical Wing  
CDR Martha K. Girz, MC, USN, representing the Commander, National Naval Medical Center  
John E. Baker, J.D., General Counsel, USU

**AWARD PRESENTATION**

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Robert Williams, President Elect, Faculty Senate, presented the Carol J. Johns, M.D., Medal to Neil E. Grunberg, Ph.D., an internationally known psychologist and Professor, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology. The Carol Johns Medal honors a faculty member whose accomplishments emulate Doctor Johns' spirit by furthering the welfare of the USU faculty, promoting outstanding educational programs for students, and advancing the reputation of the university.

## **MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT**

In opening comments, Mr. Alvarez shared a letter he received on behalf of the Board from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. The letter was in appreciation of the Board's correspondence concerning permanent funding for the Graduate School of Nursing. Mr. Alvarez also highlighted a thank you letter from Dr. Ikram Khan upon receipt of his Distinguished Service Medal. Dr. Khan is a former Regent.

The following items of general consent were presented:

- Meeting dates for the coming year
- Minutes of the February 4, 2007, meeting of the Committee of the Whole and the minutes of the February 5, 2007, Board of Regents Meeting
- Actions taken by the Board since the February 2007 meeting. Ms. Scheman reported for the record electronic consideration of three Distinguished Service Medals. These awards were approved for William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., VADM Donald Arthur, MC, USN, and LTG Kevin Kiley, MC, USA.

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 addressed Board concerns regarding possible program effects from the publicized shortcomings in outpatient services found at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He feels the situation has not had a sustained impact on the University's programs and both Dr. Laughlin and Dr. Hepler added supporting information. Their remarks included the following points:

- Information from informal interviews indicates that medical students, although aware of the publicity, have not been affected in their day to day tasks and responsibilities
- The morale of clerkship directors and other senior administrators has been affected, but these professionals agreed that the education of USU medical students was intact
- Faculty at Walter Reed feel that concerns regarding graduate medical education are much more apt to be rooted in issues concerning deployment or the Base Realignment and Closure Act
- Dr. Hepler reported that administrators in the Graduate School of Nursing were in close communication with program directors and students throughout the incident and that no adverse impact has been noted

Mr. Alvarez said the questions about Walter Reed were initially raised due to Board concerns regarding the university's upcoming reaccreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

The President's Report also included the following items:

- USU is interested in two departments previously maintained by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology -- the tissue repository and the medical history museum. The university has recommended that an outside contractor evaluate the usefulness of the millions of specimens in the repository
- Funding issues concerning the Graduate School of Nursing have been resolved and the university is grateful for the Board's assistance
- Building E is proceeding on schedule and within budget

- Colonel Jack Wempe, MC, USA, currently at Fort Drum, New York, has been selected as Brigade Commander. It is expected that Colonel Wempe will report to USU this summer
- The Center for Deployment Psychology, a new training consortium for psychologists and other behavioral health professionals, has already conducted several courses and is experiencing increasing demand
- The School of Medicine Class of 2007 has established an endowment in memory of their classmate, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Catherine Baxter Wochos

## **REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

### **Director's Report, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI)**

COL Lillis-Hearne reported that the institute's course on the medical effects of ionizing radiation has continued to date due to funds received at the end of FY 2006. A request has been submitted to Health Affairs for future funding. Other points in COL Lillis-Hearne's presentation included the following:

- Staff continues to decrease in AFRRI's Department of Military Medical Operations even as requests for its expertise increase.
- The first laboratory renovations will soon be underway and a plan has been prepared which addresses much needed building maintenance and repair
- AFRRI has been involved in developing a five year strategic plan. In early May a plan for the institute's science program was mapped out. Another session will be held shortly to better define AFRRI's military mission

Ensuing discussion focused on staffing concerns and the fact that although a need exists for more people to be educated in radiobiology, human resources currently are scarce.

### **Dean's Report, Graduate School of Nursing**

Dr. Hepler presented the Dean's Report in Mr. Bester's stead. His remarks included the following items:

- The school's most pressing concern is adequate faculty. Currently there are four ongoing searches as well as the Dean Search. The status of each search was briefly reviewed.
- Admissions for 2007 currently stand at 64. The Nurse Anesthesia Master's Program is the largest -- by September it will contain 76 students.
- A review of faculty research grants, including those pending due to this year's lack of Congressional funding for the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program.
- The Army has initiated discussions regarding the establishment of a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program. The Navy has also expressed interest in this program addition.

### **Dean's Report, School of Medicine**

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education will visit USU October 14-17, 2007, in preparation for the University's reaccreditation as a school of medicine. Dr. Laughlin described the institutional self study process and said faculty response has been good. The self study will be submitted in August 2007. Other items in the Dean's Report included:

- The decision to defer for an additional year the requirement that USU medical students pass the Step 2 Clinical Skills component of the United States Medical Licensing Examination before graduation. Currently, logistics to retake the examination are complicated and time consuming.

- USU is hosting a summer symposium to consider curriculum revisions in the School of Medicine
- The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has awarded residency programs in the National Capital Consortium full accreditation although only for two years. Base Realignment and Closure mandates are no doubt contributing factors, especially concerning the organizational issues of two consolidating hospitals.
- Chair searches continue in the Department of Biochemistry, the Department of Pharmacology, and the Department of Medicine. A search will soon begin for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.
- Col Arnyce R. Pock, USAF, MC, a USU graduate, is the recipient of a 2007 University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award

## **REPORT FROM THE FACULTY**

Dr. Williams briefly reviewed the following items:

- The very well attended 2007 David Packard Lecture was given by Nobel Laureate Dr. Sydney Brenner of the Salk Institute.
- The Comparability and Welfare Committee prepared a request for action which was submitted to Dr. Rice on April 16, 2007. The request concerns bringing USU pay schedules into compliance with 10 U.S.C. § 2113
- USU Research Week, held May 14-16, 2007, was also well attended
- The Faculty Senate's primary concern is the challenge to the university's continued ability to recruit and retain outstanding faculty because pay for civilian faculty is not comparable to other medical schools in the D.C. area

## **BOARD ACTIONS**

### **Degree Granting – School of Medicine**

Dr. Laughlin presented for certification the Class of 2007. Each of the 157 students therein has completed the requirements necessary to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine and to enter graduate medical education.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**Voted by voice vote:** To concur with the recommendation of the Student Promotions Committee as presented by Dr. Laughlin and to recommend to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that the President confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine on each member of the Class of 2007.

It is noted for the record that 2LT Boma O. Afiesimama, MS, USAR, has not satisfactorily completed the requirements for graduation at this time. The Board, in accordance with its decision of August 2002, delegates graduation authority for the above named matriculant to the Dean, School of Medicine.

### **Degree Granting – Graduate School of Nursing**

Dr. Hepler presented for certification 25 graduate nurses having successfully completed requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing degree. Nineteen students have completed the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and six have completed the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Program.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**Voted by voice vote:** To concur with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Hepler and to recommend to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that the President confer the degree of Master of Science in Nursing upon each successful candidate.

### **Degree Granting - Graduate Education**

Dr. Metcalf presented for certification 51 candidates to receive graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences. Thirteen candidates were presented to receive the Doctor of Philosophy.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**Voted by voice vote:** To concur with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Metcalf and recommend to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that the President confer the degrees as stated.

Seven candidates were presented to receive the Master of Science or the Master of Science in Public Health, and 31 candidates were presented to receive the degree of Master of Public Health.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**Voted by voice vote:** To concur with the recommendations as presented by Dr. Metcalf and recommend to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs 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 April 4, 2007. Sixteen 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 to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that the President implement the actions.

Dr. Laughlin presented a request recommending the appointment of Donald R. Roberts, Ph.D. to the rank of Emeritus Professor of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics. Dr. Roberts is retiring in June 2007.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

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

### **Award Nomination**

Dr. Hepler presented a recommendation nominating Karen Elbersen, Ph.D., RN, for an Exceptional Service Award. Dr. Elbersen is retiring in September 2007.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**Voted by voice vote:** To approve the award as presented by Dr. Hepler.

## **AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Rice presented the 2007 Board of Regents Awards.

Representing the University's highest honors, the 2007 recipients are:

- Second Lieutenant Justin Fox, USAF, MSC, USU School of Medicine
- Ms. Beth Ann McNichol, Ph.D. Program, Emerging Infectious Diseases, USU School of Medicine Graduate Program
- Captain Kristine Willingham, USAF, NC, USU Graduate School of Nursing

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administrative Oversight**

Ms. Stierle summarized work to date on the following administrative issues:

- Changes in the assessment process of the university president
  - The president will submit to the Board an annual statement of intended goals for the coming year along with criteria for measuring each. This statement will be submitted to the full Board for approval.
  - One month before the Summer Meeting, the president will submit a report to the Committee Lead, Administrative Oversight Committee, analyzing the degree to which each of the pre-established goals has been achieved
  - In closed sessions, the Administrative Oversight Committee and then the full Board of Regents will write and forward to both the president and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs an annual assessment statement regarding the president's job performance
  - At the election of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, a more comprehensive review may be conducted every five years
- Revisions to the Board of Regents Bylaws
  - Fifteen revisions to the current bylaws have been reviewed and discussed
  - Following editorial changes and redistribution, the revised document will be voted upon at the Summer Meeting
- Faculty salary issue
  - Dr. Williams presented salient points to the Committee of the Whole on May 17, 2007
  - It was decided a resolution from the Board regarding this long-standing and important issue be entered into the record

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

**Voted by voice vote:** To adopt the following resolution

*The USU Board of Regents expresses its concern that its aspirations for the university are endangered by the imposition of an arbitrary cap on faculty compensation in apparent conflict with Congressional intent. The university's ability to attract and retain high quality faculty, key to its vital education and*

*research programs, is crippled. If USU is to fulfill its critical national role, this issue must be resolved. The university must have the authority and capacity to compete, as envisioned by Congress, with other area academic health centers as well as other Federal agencies.*

Mr. Alvarez emphasized the need to move forward correctly on this issue and the importance of guidance in this regard. Dr. Rice agreed and said a letter from the Board would be an appropriate and helpful step.

### **Annual Report**

Dr. Falkenheimer reiterated the need for guidance regarding the timeframe of an additional letter to the Secretary of Defense.

## **REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

### **Continuing Education for Health Professionals**

CAPT Luke summarized recent personnel changes, activities sponsored in the past year, and an upcoming reaccreditation:

- Ms. Sylvia Scherr has been hired as the new Continuing Health Education Director
- In FY 2006, the directorate sponsored 1,255 activities attended by a total of 18,222 participants. Represented disciplines included physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers.
- The university's nursing continuing education accreditation expires in February 2008; reaccreditation activities have begun
- Although operating with a small staff, the Military Training Network, in conjunction with the American Heart Association, continues to provide site visits to ensure that life support courses meet applicable standards

### **Finance and Administration**

Mr. Rice reviewed some of the issues concerning the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology's tissue repository such as the research value of the specimens, the fact that housing for the repository needs to be taken into account, and the agreement that the repository remain active. Associated costs will be addressed gradually. Other items in Mr. Rice's report included the following:

- Equipment hiring packages totaling almost \$680,000 have been completed for 11 faculty members to date in FY 2007. Two additional packages are pending.
- A review of Congressional programs usually funded by yearly adds
  - Money for the Defense Graduate Psychology Education Program and Countermeasures to Ionizing Radiation is currently being reprogrammed to USU
  - The Graduate School of Nursing is funded for FY 2008 and beyond
  - Money for the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program, the U.S. Military Cancer Institute and the Center for Prostate Disease Research will be needed beginning in FY 2008
- Contracting requirements for Building E are on schedule. Construction is scheduled to be completed March 31, 2008

**Budget**

Mr. Tinling reported that 12 prioritized unfunded requirements have been forwarded to the Tricare Management Activity (TMA) and explained how the university’s priorities can get rearranged due to different categorization by TMA. He also reviewed the university’s financial obligations over time in both a commodity format and a program activity format.

**U.S. Military Cancer Institute**

Dr. Potter’s remarks highlighted the institute’s epidemiology program:

- The Department has 9.1 million beneficiaries with electronic health records so the potential for research is great
- Analyses of cancer incidences and carcinogenic factors are important for the Department and the public at large
- In July 2006, the epidemiology program was rated “Outstanding” by the institute’s Scientific Advisory Board
- A contract will be let to link several Department databases together for research use

**PRESENTATION: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

LTC Rapp’s presentation included the following points of information:

- Following a major inspection, USU resolved or mitigated over 670 shortcomings in computer network operations
- The university is working to complete the DoD Information Assurance Accreditation and Certification Process
- USU is working to recapture its 64,000 IP addresses, most of which are currently being used by the U.S. Navy
- In anticipation of the conversion from .mil to .edu, the university has requested a direct connection to the Defense Information Systems Agency
- The information technology staff of the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute is now fully integrated into the university

**CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Following complimentary closing comments by Dr. Casscells, and there being no further business, Mr. Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

SUBMITTED:

APPROVED:



Carol R. Scheman  
Acting Executive Secretary, Board of Regents



Everett Alvarez, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Regents

Prepared by Janet S. Taylor