

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

**Meeting No. 163
May 16, 2008**

The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences met on May 16, 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 9:30 a.m. The following members and advisors were in attendance:

Board Members

Everett Alvarez, Jr., J.D., Chair
Vinicio E. Madrigal, M.D., Member
Lawrence C. Mohr, Jr., M.D., Member
Charles L. Rice, M.D., President, USU
Joseph E. Kelley, M.D., representing the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
RADM David C. Rutstein, USPHS, representing the Acting Surgeon General of the United States
MG Carla G. Hawley-Bowland, MC, USA, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Army
RDML Michael H. Mittelman, MSC, USN, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy
Maj Gen Melissa Rank, USAF, NC, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force
Col Arnyce R. Pock, USAF, MC, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force

Advisors 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
COL Bruce A. Schoneboom, AN, USA, Acting Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, USU
RDML Richard R. Jeffries, MC, USN, Commander, National Naval Medical Center
John E. Baker, J.D., General Counsel, USU

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Rice presented the Distinguished Service Medal to the Honorable William De La Peña in recognition of his contributions to the Board of Regents and the university. Dr. De La Peña served as a member of the Board from August 2002 to November 2007.

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Robert Williams presented the Carol J. Johns, M.D., Medal to Merrily Poth, M.D., an internationally recognized expert in physiology and pediatrics and professor in the departments of pediatrics and neuroscience. The Carol Johns Medal honors a faculty member whose accomplishments emulate Dr. Johns' spirit by furthering the welfare of the USU faculty, promoting outstanding educational programs for students, and advancing the reputation of the university.

INTRODUCTIONS

Following welcoming remarks, Mr. Alvarez recognized Dr. Rice, who introduced Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN. Dr. Hinshaw joins USU in mid-June as Dean, Graduate School of Nursing. Dr. Rice also introduced Colonel Scott Wardell, Chief of Staff for the Joint Task Force, National Capital Region-Medical.

MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT

The items listed below were presented by the Chair as matters of general consent:

- Meeting dates for the coming year
- Minutes of the February 5, 2008, Board of Regents Meeting
- Actions taken by the Board since the February 2008 meeting. Ms. Scheman reported two electronic votes for the record. In February the Board approved the appointment of Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D., as Professor with tenure and Dean, Graduate School of Nursing. In March, Merrily Poth, M.D. was approved as the 2008 recipient of the Carol J. Johns, M.D. Medal.

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 began his report by welcoming Dr. Hinshaw to the Board of Regents Meeting and highlighting her work at the National Institutes of Health as well as her selection as Distinguished Nurse Scholar in Residence at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. The university is looking forward to Dr. Hinshaw formally joining the Graduate School of Nursing as its dean.

In an update regarding faculty salaries, Dr. Rice said implementation of the increases provided by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act rests with the DoD Civilian Personnel Management Service. He complimented USU staff work on this important issue, and said the results may be evident before the end of the fiscal year.

Following a summary of the proposal to establish a postgraduate dental college first heard by Regents in February 2008, Dr. Rice introduced Dr. Dale Smith. Dr. Smith's presentation regarding the new college included the following information:

- The Air Force initiated the proposal to partner with USU and once again award a master's degree in dentistry from its accredited program at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas
- The Services hope to move towards a joint system of postgraduate dental education and in fact the Navy has recently requested that its programs be assimilated into the college in the same manner as the Air Force program
- USU program evaluations include
 - Evaluating the academic content and proposed program faculty
 - Determining national standards and measuring Service programs against them
 - Exploring accreditation issues with appropriate organizations
- The vetting process for the Air Force program is much further along than that of the Navy programs and in fact the Air Force program is a model for current civilian graduate programs

- The university seeks the advice of the Board of Regents regarding the establishment of a new college
- If endorsed by the Board of Regents, issues regarding Institutional Review Board authority and any accreditation concerns would be addressed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Additionally, memoranda of understanding would be signed between the university and the appropriate Service.
- If the new college is established, the university would return to the Board with proposals concerning degrees and faculty appointments
- Any new school would routinely report to the Board as the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Nursing currently do

At the invitation of Admiral Mittelman, Captain Robert Taft described current decisions regarding Navy postgraduate dental programs. His remarks included the following points:

- The Federal Services Working Group has been influential in focusing on common educational goals rather than Service-specific needs
- If the new school is established, the Navy will move its programs from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. to USU
- The USU Postgraduate Dental College is seen as a step toward academic alignment which would allow all the Services to have the same credentials

Ensuing discussion also included the points below:

- Army interest is currently limited. Its programs are widely dispersed and based on operational needs
- Initial costs to the university are low as establishing the new school primarily involves realignment of existing programs
- Overhead costs are not being considered at this time largely because they are currently unidentified
- Regents agreed that a comprehensive document describing the new school and Service commitments to it would be helpful prior to Board consideration at the Summer Meeting

The Chair requested that the minutes from today's discussion be forwarded to the full Board accompanied by reference materials received to date regarding the proposal to establish a postgraduate dental college at the university.

Again referring to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, Dr. Rice introduced COL Schoneboom to summarize the university's report to Congress regarding the establishment of a DoD School of Nursing and the Board's preliminary review of this report. The following points were included in COL Schoneboom's presentation:

- As requested by Congress, the report describes the feasibility of placing undergraduate nursing programs at USU, including proposed curricula and estimated costs
- The Board of Regents was asked to review the plan and provide recommendations to Congress
- Congressional concerns are legitimate; there is a national nursing shortage as well as a shortage of qualified nursing faculty
- Additional factors include
 - Limited clinical opportunities for training

- Highly competitive salaries in clinical nursing, which contributes to the shortage of nursing faculty
- The substantial initial cost as well as the need for a sustained commitment from both Congress and DoD; the estimate to amortize costs is over ten years

Ms. Scheman summarized the conclusions reached by the Board of Regents Working Committee following its review of the university's report and emphasized several cogent points made by Dr. Conway-Welch, who attended the committee meeting by telephone. Ms. Scheman noted the discussion had highlighted the importance of stabilizing USU's current graduate nursing programs and stressed Congressional recognition of this as well. Mr. Alvarez agreed with the summary and reviewed less costly alternatives which have been proposed. These include fully funding existing programs as well as creating a pipeline from civilian schools to USU for graduate work. Ensuing discussion emphasized the need to systematically and aggressively address the shortage from a tri-service viewpoint.

Dr. Rice concluded his report with the following items:

- The Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, USU, and the National Institutes of Health are cooperating in the development of a research program to better understand these injuries. Brigadier General Loree Sutton is the director of the centers.
- Compliments to Ms. Mary Dix, Special Assistant to the President for Building E. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on May 15 celebrating the completion of the new building. Building E was constructed on time and on budget.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY

Following his introduction of LTC Andrew Bauer, MC, USA, president-elect of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Williams announced that a framed letter of appreciation was presented to Dr. Rice, and that a traditional Japanese katana has been purchased as a tribute to Mr. Alvarez and the Board of Regents. Both the letter and the sword are on display in the James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center and are in recognition of actions by the administration and the Board towards the resolution of faculty salary comparability. Additional points in Dr. Williams' report included the following:

- An Education Day will be held in August featuring USU's teaching faculty
- The importance of faculty mentoring has been recognized and several initiatives are under way
- Outstanding non-billeted faculty members at teaching hospitals are receiving continuing medical education travel awards in recognition of their work

BOARD ACTIONS

Degree Granting – School of Medicine

Dr. Laughlin presented for certification the Class of 2008. 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 2008.

It is noted for the record that 2LT John Coleman, MS, USA, 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

COL Schoneboom presented for certification 19 graduate nurses having successfully completed requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing degree. Twelve students have completed the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and seven 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 COL Schoneboom 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.

Three candidates were presented to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Doctor of Nursing Science Program.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the recommendations as presented by COL Schoneboom and to recommend to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that the President confer the degree of Doctor of Philosophy upon each of the three successful candidates.

Degree Granting - Graduate Education

Dr. Laughlin presented for certification nine candidates to receive graduate degrees in the biomedical sciences. Seven candidates were presented to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, one to receive the degree of Doctor of Public Health, and one to receive a Master of Science.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

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

Thirty-one candidates were presented to receive the degree of Master of Public Health and one candidate was presented 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. Laughlin 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 meetings held on March 31 and April 22, 2008. Eight 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.

Award Nominations

COL Schoneboom presented a recommendation approved by the Committee for Names and Honors nominating Linda J. Wanzer, COL, AN, USA, (Ret) for an Exceptional Service Award. COL Wanzer served as the founding director of the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Program from September 2002 to March 2008.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the award as presented by COL Schoneboom.

Dr. Laughlin presented a request recommending the appointment of Kenneth E. Kinnamon, Ph.D. to the rank of Emeritus Professor of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics. Although retired, Dr. Kinnamon will serve as an esteemed lecturer in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics as well as the Department of Radiology.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the recommendation as presented by Dr. Laughlin.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Three issues discussed in the Working Committee Meeting held on Thursday, May 15, 2008, were brought to the full Board of Regents for review or action:

- It was agreed that in lieu of a separate document, the Board will review the university's 2008 Annual Report and transmit it to the Secretary of Defense with a cover letter. The Board will also be communicating with the Secretary regarding the establishment of an undergraduate school of nursing as well as the establishment of a postgraduate dental college
- Mr. Baker reviewed the process governing the Board's input into the annual evaluation of the USU President. This process was approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs in July 2007 and includes the following steps:

- No later than 30 days before the Summer Board of Regents Meeting, the USU President provides a written self assessment report based on previously provided goals and objectives for the current annual year. This self assessment is distributed to all Regents.
- In closed session at the Summer Meeting, the President and Regents discuss the report
- Regents draft a written assessment of the President's report along with other information they may wish to use
- The Board approves its final input and forwards this document to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs for consideration in the preparation of the President's annual evaluation
- To align the Board of Regents Bylaws with changes made to § 2113 of Title 10, U.S. Code by the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, five amendments to the bylaws were recommended by USU General Counsel in March 2008. Following a review of these changes, and

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the amendments to the Bylaws of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences as presented.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Alvarez and Dr. Rice presented the 2008 Board of Regents Awards.

Representing the University's highest honors, the 2008 recipients are:

- Second Lieutenant Brent Feldt, USAF, MSC, USU School of Medicine
- Ms. Julie A. Wu, Ph.D. Program, Molecular and Cell Biology, USU School of Medicine Graduate Program

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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

COL Lillis-Hearne summarized ongoing infrastructure upgrades and renovations taking place at AFRRI. She reported that few improvements were made until 2006 even though severe deficiencies in the electrical, mechanical and HVAC systems were reported in 2000. Additionally, AFRRI's TRIGA Reactor is in the process of being relicensed. COL Lillis-Hearne explained that research reactors are licensed for 20 years by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and that license renewal is a multi-stepped procedure which often takes several years. AFRRI's current license expired in 2004 and relicensing is expected in 2010.

Dean's Report, Graduate School of Nursing

COL Schoneboom's report to the Board included the following items:

- 2008 admissions into the four masters programs currently stand at 59
- Dr. Roopa Biswas has been awarded a \$180,000 research grant over two years by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- LCDR Pamela Herbig has joined the Graduate School of Nursing faculty and will be teaching in the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program

Dean's Report, School of Medicine

In February the university received its formal evaluation letter from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. Dr. Laughlin announced that the School of Medicine is reaccruited for eight years, which is the maximum award given. USU's institutional strengths include well-developed competency-based curricular objectives, the Simulation Center, the university's faculty evaluation process, and the incorporation of the military-unique curriculum. Areas of non-compliance were very few and include budgetary process issues and the need to increase diversity among both the student body and the faculty. A report concerning progress in these areas is due to the committee in January 2009. Dr. Laughlin's report also included the following:

- A task force composed of senior faculty and students is reviewing the use of animals in teaching at USU and will report its conclusions in September 2008. Because this is an issue of community concern, the university's use of animals is evaluated every four years.
- A presentation by CDR Margaret Calloway, MC, USN, Associate Dean for Recruitment and Admissions, on new initiatives and their results
 - Multi-level approaches are being used
 - Target markets include pre-medical and health profession advisors, national and regional pre-medical student associations, and undergraduate health fairs, presentations and workshops
 - Marketing tools include new products from USU such as the calendar, newsletters, and the Annual Report. The trailer from *Fighting for Life* has been an extremely successful tool
 - Recruitment personnel include faculty, staff, alumni, students, Service recruiters and HPSP representatives
 - 2008 entering class statistics include an increase in total applicants, an increase in the number of applicants accepting interview invitations, an increase in acceptance rates, and an increase in applicants' overall grade point averages
 - Initiatives aimed at increasing diversity at USU include
 - Participating in annual activities associated with the Presidential Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and increasing recruitment efforts at these institutions
 - Developing partnerships with national and regional minority student organizations
 - Joining Elite Minority Access Inc., which provides services for institutions committed to diversity
- Dr. Brian Cox, Professor of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, is the new president elect of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
- Dr. Alison O'Brien, Professor and Chair, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, will be inducted in early June as president of the American Society of Microbiology

Dr. Laughlin presented his selection of Louis N. Pangaro, M.D., as the new Chair, Department of Medicine, and asked for concurrence from the Board of Regents.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To concur with the selection of the Chair, Department of Medicine, as presented by Dr. Laughlin.

U.S. Military Cancer Institute

Dr. Potter's remarks highlighted the points below:

- The institute is developing research plans regarding possible relationships between deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom and subsequent incidences of cancer
- In coordination with the National Cancer Institute, the Military Cancer Institute's BioSpecimen Network is collecting frozen cancer tissues for proteomic and genomic analysis
- The institute's Scientific Advisory Board will become a subcommittee of the Department's Defense Health Board
- Initial discussions have taken place regarding the establishment of a Cancer Center in the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the institute's role in it

Finance and Administration

Mr. Rice provided the following updates in his report:

- There has been a delay in converting most of USU's GS employees to the Department's National Security Personnel System. To date, only supervisors have been transferred into the new program.
- Approximately 1600 travel authorizations have been processed online since the Defense Travel System was implemented at the university in October 2007. When the system is fully operational the turn-around time for travel payments is expected to be about one week.
- Although still about two years away, the replacement for USU's antiquated financial system is moving forward.
- Several university projects have received support from the Department's supplemental funding concerning traumatic brain injury and psychological health. These projects include the Child Trauma Network, the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress, and the Center for Deployment Psychology.
- With assistance from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine and the Tricare Management Activity, about 50 people were relocated from the National Naval Medical Center into leased spaces in Rockville, Maryland. The moves were necessary due to construction projects at the medical center or on its campus.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

Following the departure of two designees, Mr. Alvarez cited the lack of a quorum and adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

SUBMITTED:



Carol R. Scheman
Acting Executive Secretary, Board of Regents

APPROVED:



Everett Alvarez, Jr.
Chair, Board of Regents

Prepared by Janet S. Taylor