

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

**Meeting No. 172
August 3, 2010**

The Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences met on August 3, 2010, 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. Members and advisors listed below were in attendance:

Board Members

Ronald R. Blanck, D.O., Chair
Otis W. Brawley, M.D., Member
Michael M.E. Johns, M.D., Member
Gen Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret), Member
Lawrence S. Lewin, Member
Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H., Member
BG William T. Bester, USA (Ret), Acting President, USU
Charles L. Rice, M.D., Performing the Duties of Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
RADM David C. Rutstein, USPHS, representing the Surgeon General of the United States
Brig Gen Byron C. Hepburn, USAF, MC, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force
BG Stephen L. Jones, MC, USA, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Army
CAPT Christopher M. Culp, MC, USN, representing the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy

Advisors to the Board

Larry W. Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, USU
Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Dean, Graduate School of Nursing, USU
COL Mark A. Melanson, MSC, USA, Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
VADM John M. Mateczun, MC, USN, Commander, Joint Task Force, National Capital Region Medical
CAPT W. Rich Dalton, MC, USN, Commander, Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute
John E. Baker, J.D., General Counsel, USU

OPENING COMMENTS

Dr. Blanck welcomed those in attendance and introduced CAPT W. R. Dalton, the new commander of the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He then described the Board's revised working committees and the membership of each:

- Academics Committee
 - Dr. Michael Johns, Chair
 - Dr. Haile Debas
 - Mr. Lawrence Lewin
 - Dr. Kenneth Moritsugu
 - LTG Eric Schoomaker

- Finance and Administration Committee
 - Dr. Otis Brawley, Chair
 - Gen Charles Krulak
 - Dr. Gail Wilensky
 - VADM Regina Benjamin
 - Lt Gen Charles Green
 - VADM Adam Robinson

Dr. Blanck concluded his remarks with a summary of the agenda items to be considered in the meeting's closed session. These included the Board's contribution to the annual assessment of the President, USU, as well as a discussion of how best to conduct a more comprehensive five-year evaluation of the president.

MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT

Dr. Blanck presented the matters of general consent listed below:

- Meeting dates for the coming year, noting that the Winter Meeting will be held January 31-February 1, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas.
- Minutes of the May 14, 2010, Board of Regents Meeting
- Electronic approval by the Board in May 2010 of the USU Exceptional Service Medal to Lieutenant Colonel Timothy J. Rapp

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

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

BOARD ACTIONS

Degree Granting – Graduate Education

Dr. Metcalf presented for certification two candidates to receive the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, one candidate to receive the degree of Master of Science and one candidate to receive the degree of Master of Science in 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 to recommend that the President confer the degrees as stated.

Faculty Appointments and Promotions – School of Medicine

Dr. Laughlin presented the recommendations made by the School of Medicine Committee of Appointments, Promotion and Tenure at a meeting on May 27, 2010. Nine individuals were recommended for faculty appointments, promotions or tenure.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the recommendations of the committee as presented by Dr. Laughlin and to recommend that the President implement the actions as stated.

Dr. Laughlin presented a request to grant sabbatical leave to Denes V. Agoston, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics. This request was reviewed and approved by the Chair, School of Medicine Committee of Appointments, Promotion and Tenure on July 20, 2010.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

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

Awards and Honors

Dr. Hinshaw presented two recommendations approved by the Committee for Names and Honors on June 4, 2010:

- The USU Exceptional Service Medal for Col Paul Hemmer, USAF, MC
- The USU Exceptional Service Medal for Robert Williams, Ph.D.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Voted by voice vote: To approve the awards as presented by Dr. Hinshaw.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BG Bester opened his report with the summary of a recent USU faculty job satisfaction survey. The survey is part of a collaborative effort between the Association of American Medical Colleges and 23 medical schools to identify issues that will improve faculty satisfaction and retention. In general, USU faculty respondents were least satisfied with items concerning governance and operations and most satisfied with the culture and collegiality found here at the university. Other items in the President's Report included the following:

- The university is actively involved in the integration of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the National Naval Medical Center. As the concept of a world-class academic health center evolves with its concomitant focus on education and relevant research, several USU faculty members are serving as subject matter experts. Other areas include work widening the availability of both the university's electronic medical library and the simulation assets in the National Capital Area. Dr. Jeffrey Longacre, Vice President for Affiliations and International Relations, is USU's liaison officer to the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical.
- Vulnerabilities identified in a recent audit of the university's information systems have been cut in half over the past few months. These audits are associated with the DoD Information Assurance Accreditation and Certification Process which confirms compliance with Department security requirements.
- Delegations from South Korea, Israel, Brazil and Thailand have recently visited the university to learn about its programs or update existing agreements. Both South Korea and Israel are exploring the establishment of a military medical school.
- USU's concurrent field exercises, Operation Bushmaster and Operation Kerkesner, took place in mid-July at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. This year's mass casualty exercise was unique in that the scenario provided was an urban village rather than the wooded areas used in past years.
- Dr. Patrick Sculley, Senior Vice President for University Programs (Southern Region Office) provided an update on the Postgraduate Dental College at the Uniformed Services University. The current class of 25 students in the Naval Postgraduate Dental School is spread into six of the eight programs offered. The Air Force Postgraduate Dental School is comprised of a single

program in comprehensive dentistry, and the current class contains ten students. Dr. Sculley reported that the college's growth by both Service and program is likely in 2011.

Dr. Blanck thanked BG Bester for his report, and also for his excellent leadership as acting president of the university.

REPORT FROM FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Whitmeyer presented an overview of the current Program Objective Memorandum (POM) process, which is used by the Department of Defense to identify and plan for long-term funding requirements.

- The current POM covers FY 2012 – FY 2016.
- Over 140 POM issues were received by the Department from across the military health system. Twelve issues were submitted by the university. These included funding for curriculum reform, programs to increase the number of healthcare providers in the area of behavioral health, E-learning and research support, simulation education, the conversion of nursing masters programs to the practice doctorate level, and the construction of Building F.
- Submitted issues were studied, organized and prioritized by three separate groups within the Department.
- Final recommendations for funding have been forwarded to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. The university's submission concerning curriculum reform is among the final recommendations forwarded.

Dr. Blanck said it may be worthwhile for the university leadership and the Board to discuss program priorities and strategies in the event of funding shortfalls.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academics Committee

Dr. Johns summarized the reports heard by the Academics Committee.

- Dr. Laughlin's report focused on curriculum reform.
 - Dr. Alison O'Brien, Chair, Microbiology and Immunology, and Dr. Louis Pangaro, Chair, Medicine, continue to provide excellent faculty leadership.
 - The new structure emphasizes small group learning and an integrated systems approach to material.
 - Students will begin their clinical experience in the second, rather than the third, year of medical school.
- Dr. Hinshaw's report brought the committee up to date regarding several issues.
 - A Substantial Change Document has been submitted to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education requesting an additional location for Ph.D. students and approval to deliver most of the curriculum at this location in Tampa, Florida, through E-learning.
 - The Tri-Service Nursing Academic Partnership Program may begin admitting students as early as 2012.
 - Work continues toward the implementation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, which is an impending mandate from nurse education accrediting bodies. A faculty retreat in December 2010 will finalize curriculum and develop a transition plan.
- COL Melanson made two presentations on Capitol Hill during the past quarter due to recent Congressional interest in the health risks associated with depleted uranium. He said despite the

lack of scientific evidence, some activists blame depleted uranium for many veterans' health ailments. COL Melanson also reported that plans are moving forward for USU to once again offer a Ph.D. in radiobiology.

- The report from the Faculty Senate emphasized the accomplishments of the past year, including progress in shared governance as well as very successful events such as Research Week and Education Day. Dr. Wind also noted that salaries for basic science faculty are close to or at parity and that work will continue toward comparability for all faculty categories.
- Dr. Kaminsky's report summarized research dollars at USU by category and fiscal year. He said one of the most comparable benchmarks across medical schools is research funding won from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). From FY 2005 to FY 2009, extramural grants from NIH have risen from \$21.7 million to a notable \$39.1 million at USU. Dr. Kaminsky also summarized the new DoD Defense Health Program, which made \$370 million available in FY 2010 for military medical research in six specific areas. University researchers were successful in securing \$10 million in grants from these funds.

Finance and Administration Committee

Dr. Brawley reviewed three presentations heard by the committee:

- The focus of Mr. Tinling's report was the university's Operation and Maintenance Budget for FY 2010. The current planning figure of \$157.8 million reflects several additions to the starting operation and maintenance position and the outlook for the rest of the fiscal year is consistent with the current plan.
- The report from the USU Brigade emphasized the need for an electronic student tracking program to improve the timeliness and accuracy of medical student travel orders, especially for third and fourth-year students.
- Mr. Baker described the university's technology transfer program, which is jointly managed by the Office of General Counsel and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine. The program encourages and protects inventions by USU researchers through patenting and licensing transactions, as well as through Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with private industry. Technology transfer revenue supports current research and educational programs as well as education endowments for the university.

In conclusion, Dr. Brawley noted the committee's discussion of the current "medical home" concept and said it may well be an appropriate topic for an upcoming presentation to the Board.

PRESENTATION: COLLABORATIVE STUDY OF SUICIDALITY AND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE U.S. ARMY

In July 2009, the National Institute of Mental Health awarded an interdisciplinary team from USU, Harvard University, the University of Michigan, and Columbia University a cooperative agreement research grant funded by the U.S. Army to study suicide and mental health among military personnel. Dr. Ursano, the project director and overall principal investigator, presented an overview of the study's purpose and design.

- The suicide rate among soldiers has risen steadily since 2001 despite prevention efforts.
- The study's purpose is to identify both risk and protective factors as quickly as scientifically possible so appropriate interventions to improve soldiers' psychological health can be developed.

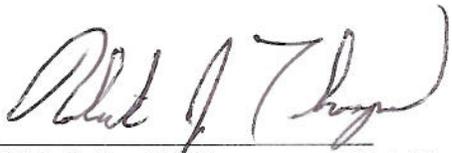
- There are five study components
 - Historical Archive – Personal information from existing Army databases is being linked together to possibly identify risk and resilience factors. The archive describes Army personnel from 2004-2009.
 - All Army Survey – A representative sample of about 3,000 active Army personnel will be surveyed every month for over three years to collect information on the incidence of both risk and protective behavior.
 - New Soldier Survey – Information will be gathered from all new Army recruits who agree to participate in the study. This survey will add about 300,000 people to the study.
 - Study of Suicide Attempts – Soldiers who are or have been hospitalized will be compared to those who never sought care or never had contact with the medical system.
 - Study of Completed Suicides – In addition to collecting data from family and friends following a suicide, the study will compare soldiers who have taken their lives to those who are without suicidal behavior but otherwise a match regarding study variables.
- Blood and saliva samples will be collected to supply neurobiological and genetic information. Survey studies using this data may well help identify the most important predictors of risk and resilience.
- The five-year study, known as the Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Service members (Army STARRS), will involve about 1.6 million participants retrospectively and up to 400,000 prospectively.

Ensuing discussion emphasized the fact that the stigma associated with mental illness is an important component and is a national issue as well as a military one.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Blanck adjourned the open portion of the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

SUBMITTED:



COL Robert J. Thompson, USA (Ret)
Acting Executive Secretary, Board of Regents

APPROVED:



Ronald R. Blanck
Chair, Board of Regents

Prepared by Janet S. Taylor