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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Health Affairs Committee

November 6, 2009

The Health Affairs Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 6, 2009, at 11:45 a.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr., Chairman; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Ms. Leah B. Moody; Mrs. Amy E. Stone; Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.; Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Chairman; and Mr. Eugene P. Warr, Jr., Board Vice Chairman. Mr. Chuck Allen and Mr. Arthur S. Bahnmuller were absent.

Other Trustees present were: Mr. Herbert C. Adams; Mr. Greg Gregory; and Mr. Toney J. Lister.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Vice President for Finance and Planning William T. Moore; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Michael D. Amiridis; Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost for Academic Support Dennis A. Pruitt; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Interim Vice President for Advancement Michelle Dodenhoff; Vice Provost for Faculty Development Christine W. Curtis; Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Helen I. Doerpinghaus; Assistant Provost for Academic Programs Kris H. Finnigan; Dean of USC Union Hugh C. Rowland; Dean of the College of Nursing Peggy O. Hewlett; Associate Dean of Medical Education and Academic Affairs, School of Medicine, Joshua T. Thornhill; Special Assistant to the President J. Cantey Heath; Chair of the Faculty Senate Patrick D. Nolan; Public Information Officer in the Office of Media Relations, Division of University Advancement, Karen Petit; Special Assistant to the President and Athletics Director John D. Gregory; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone, and Karen Tweedy.

Chairman von Lehe called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. There were no members of the media in attendance.

Chairman von Lehe stated that the agenda had been posted and the press had been notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda had been circulated to the Committee members; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

- I. Update from College of Nursing:
 - A. Upper Division Admissions:
 - B. College of Nursing Progress in Addressing the Nursing Shortage:

Chairman von Lehe called on Dean Hewlett. She began by noting the accomplishments during her five year tenure at USC. They included: doubled upper division (Jr. year)

enrollments from 112 to 232 a year; opened Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) extension programs at USC Lancaster and USC Salkehatchie; opened a state-of-the-art patient simulation center; created work class online course offerings for graduate students; granted national accreditation for the Doctorate in Nursing Practice - one of the first four accredited in the United States; awarded the state's first nursing Chair of Economics Excellence Chair for nursing informatics and patient safety; established the state's nursing workforce data center; and clearly recognized as the state's flagship nursing program.

The number of BSN graduates increased each FY as follows: 2005-06 (108); 2006-07 (127); 2007-08 (167); 2008-09 (228); and projected for 2009-10 (232).

The challenges that School of Nursing faced included: national nursing shortage (a 17 percent shortage was projected for South Carolina by the year 2020); critical shortage of nursing faculty (currently there were fewer than 175 nurses in South Carolina with a doctoral degree and those were "hotly contested for," by other public and private institutions); inability to admit all qualified undergraduate students due to capacity issues - faculty and clinical space; competition with service sector which pays much higher salaries for graduate prepared nurses - our potential faculty recruits; labor intensive programs - 1:8 ratio mandate.

During Dean Hewlett's presentation, Mr. Whittle asked several questions, to which she responded. In particular, he questioned the state's 1:8 faculty/student ratio, and questioned the "premise" used, in that he did not see how patients would be better served by fewer, but more qualified nurses. Dean Hewlett explained that the premise was that in that matter of life or death a well-trained qualified nurse would be needed. He asked about the faculty/student ratio in other states and she said that to her knowledge it was not over 1:10.

Dr. Floyd clarified that the State, not USC, set the ratio. Mr. Whittle said that the University could lobby the State to increase the ratio to allow for a larger enrollment. Dean Hewlett stressed the importance of safety and quality in the nursing profession. Dr. Floyd stated that any consideration to changing the ratio should be done at a different level, such as the State Board of Nursing, not this Committee.

At President Pastides request, Dean Hewlett explained the successful efforts to get the "Critical Nursing Needs Initiative Act" enacted into law in 2007, which provides \$1 million annual in base funding in recurring nursing faculty salaries in all state nursing schools. There are five unfunded parts in the act, one of which was new nursing state funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. She concluded that the better angle to take to address the nursing shortage and training issues was to work on how "we move more resources into our Nursing Schools," rather than to try to rangle with the State Board of Nursing over quality and safety issues.

President Pastides clarified that the University lobbied the State for more money to take nurses out of the practice setting into the professorate in order to graduate more nurses, and the General Assembly did not fund that initiative, but they did provide some funding to increase current nursing faculty salaries. When asked by the President, Dean Hewlett explained that USC Nursing students who graduated with a Master's Degree in Advanced Practice could start at a salary of \$75,000 or above out in the field; whereas graduates hired by USC as a 9 month Master's prepared instructor, would only start at \$46,000 to \$48,000. She noted that USC's nursing faculty worked very hard to produce wonderful graduates, and that USC graduated more than half of the nurses in the state, and with very limited resources.

Dean Hewlett discussed the four sources of students seeking admission into the nursing major: true freshmen; USC change of major students; USC system campus transfers; and other out of system transfers. The number of students wanting a nursing degree continued to increase, with over 300 qualified students applying for 200 seats in the Columbia Nursing Program.

In response to recent concerns, Dean Hewlett stated that they were continuing to improve their ongoing communications with students and parents about the admissions process into the upper division of nursing, both before they came to USC and after they arrived. She explained the process and criteria used in the process.

Chairman von Lehe thanked Dean Hewlett for her presentation, and stated that it was received as information.

C. Other Matters:

- Report on School of Medicine Name Changes: Chairman von Lehe called on Provost Amiridis to report on the three School of Medicine Name Changes.

1. Division of Neurology to Department of Neurology:

2. Division of Neurosurgery to Department of Neurosurgery:

Provost Amiridis explained the rationale to change the two divisions to departments was that both programs had developed into significant clinical units, and the academic activities of both were expected to grow substantially in the future. Each program

leader felt that to further their faculty recruitment and establishment of residency goals, department status was needed.

3. Department of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences to
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences:

Provost Amiridis stated that the Academic Affairs Committee had tabled this request in its meeting earlier in the day, due to substantial discussion regarding the change from "Neuropsychiatry" to "Psychiatry." The question, based on the distinct difference between "Neuropsychiatry" and "Psychiatry," was whether this was the direction the Board wished to take.

Secretary Stepp explained that he would work on the "committee of residence" for this issue, since it related not only to the Academic Affairs and the Health Affairs Committee, but also the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning.

Chairman von Lehe stated that this report was received as information and was acted on formally by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee earlier in the day and would be presented for Board of Trustees action in December.

Chairman von Lehe called for any other matters to come before the Committee. President Pastides reported that Associate Dean of the School of Medicine Marion Burton was elected President of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which was a great national honor not only for Dr. Burton, but also for the University and the State.

D. Adjournment: Since there were no other matters to come before the Committee, Chairman von Lehe declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary