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University of South Carolina  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Health Affairs Committee

September 15, 2017

The Health Affairs Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, September 15, 2017, in the Alumni Center's C. Edward Floyd Boardroom.

Members present were: Mr. A.C. "Bubba" Fennell III; Dr. C. Dorn Smith III; Mr. Eugene P. Warr Jr.; Mr. Thad H. Westbrook; Mr. Mack I. Whittle Jr.; and Mr. John C. von Lehe Jr., Board Chairman. Mr. William C. Hubbard and Mr. Charles H. Williams participated by phone.

Other Board members present were: Mr. Chuck Allen; Mr. J. Egerton Burroughs; Mr. Mark W. Buyck Jr.; Mr. Thomas C. Cofield; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. Toney J. Lister; Mr. Miles Loadholt; Mr. Hubert F. Mobley, Board Vice Chairman; and Ms. Leah B. Moody.

Also present were: Faculty Senate Chair Marco Valtorta; and Student Government President Ross Lordo.

Others present were: President Harris Pastides; Secretary J. Cantey Heath Jr.; General Counsel Walter "Terry" H. Parham; Provost Joan T.A. Gabel; Chief Operating Officer (COO) Edward L. Walton; Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Leslie Brunelli; Chief Information Officer (CIO) Doug Foster; Vice President for Student Affairs Dennis Pruitt; Vice President for Facilities and Transportation Derrick Huggins; Vice President for System Planning Mary Anne Fitzpatrick; Vice President of Development Jancy Houck; Chief Communications Officer Wes Hickman; Athletics Director Ray Tanner; USC School of Medicine Executive Dean and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group Leslie W. Hall; Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group CFO Darrell Coven; Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group COO Kevin Boggs; USC School of Medicine Senior Associate Dean Caughman Taylor; USC School of Medicine Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education Frank Spinale; Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance and Medical Business Affairs Jeffrey L. Perkins III; Associate Provost for Academic Programs Tena Crews; Palmetto College Chancellor Susan Elkins; Executive Director of Audit & Advisory Services Pam Doran; USC Aiken Chancellor Sandra Jordan; USC Beaufort Chancellor Al Panu; USC Upstate Chancellor Brendan Kelly; USC Aiken Executive Vice Chancellor for

Academic Affairs Jeff Priest; USC Beaufort Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Eric Skipper; University Treasurer Pat Lardner; Executive Director for the Office of Economic Engagement William D. “Bill” Kirkland; Executive Director of My Carolina Alumni Association Jack W. Claypoole; Associate Director for Public Relations Jeff Stensland; Director of State Government Relations Derrick Meggie; Galen Health Fellows Faculty Principal David Simmons; Gamecock Club Executive Committee Chairman Kent Eddy; Charlie Koors, student intern; Ann Loadholt, spouse of Trustee Loadholt; Cynthia Lister, spouse of Trustee Lister; Maggie Metcalf guest of Trustee von Lehe; Turner Johnson, Residence Hall Association; University Technology Services Production Manager Matt Warthen; and Board staff members Terri Saxon and Ina Wilson.

## OPEN SESSION

### I. Call to Order

Board Chairman von Lehe called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He stated that the agenda had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda had been circulated; and a quorum was present to conduct business. Mr. Hickman introduced the members of the media in attendance: Larissa Johnson with *The Daily Gamecock*.

### II. Election of Committee Chair

Board Chairman von Lehe said the first order of business was the election of a new Health Affairs Committee Chair to replace Mr. Loadholt who had been elected to fill a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Dr. Smith nominated Trustee Bubba Fennell, noting Mr. Fennell was eligible to serve as he had resigned his chairship of the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee. Trustee Warr seconded. Chairman von Lehe thanked Dr. Smith for the nomination and stated he was in receipt of the referenced resignation. The vote was taken and Mr. Fennell was elected Health Affairs Committee Chair.

Mr. Fennell accepted the gavel from Board Chairman von Lehe and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

## MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Fennell called for a motion to enter Executive Session for the receipt of legal advice and to discuss a proposed contractual matter related to renovation work at Medical Park Four. Dr. Smith so moved and Mr. Westbrook seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

The following were invited to remain: President Pastides, Secretary Heath, members of the President's Executive Council, Dr. Hall, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Spinale, Mr. Perkins, Ms. Doran, Dr. Valtorta, and Mr. Lordo.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

#### III. Galen Health Fellows Program

Provost Gabel reminded Trustees the Galen Health Fellows program was a new living, learning community, as well as recruiting pipeline, for the health sciences. She introduced Dr. David Simmons, the faculty principal of the program and said that interest had been even greater than anticipated. She noted 458 students were admitted to the Galen Health Fellows out of 1,000 applicants. The program aims to holistically prepare undergraduates for health sciences professions and provide them a competitive advantage for entering subsequent graduate/professional programs.

President Pastides added this was a vitally important program to support, especially when keeping in mind the goal of becoming the "go to place" for students who are looking to enter the health sciences professions. Responding to questions from Trustees, Provost Gabel said the Galen Health Fellows were a select group of academically high-achieving students with most receiving merit scholarships.

Chairman Fennell stated this update was received as information.

#### IV. USC School of Medicine Columbia Updates

Dean Hall reported the School of Medicine (SOM) Columbia had undergone its re-accreditation process, which had resulted in an extremely busy year with the site visit in February and official notification in June that the school remained fully accredited. He said the SOM had been working on improving Board Examination pass-rates. He noted students who just completed their second year of medical school are almost through Step 1 of the Board Examinations; all but five of the students already completed the exams with a 100% pass rate to date, which is the best result in recent history. He added students continue to exceed national averages in matching for residency positions upon completion of medical school.

Dean Hall also provided highlights on graduate programs at the SOM Columbia that are for degrees other than a Doctor of Medicine (MD). He stated in a couple of years there will likely be a greater number of students pursuing one of these graduate degree programs than are enrolled in the MD program:

- Biomedical Science (Post Baccalaureate Certificate)
  - Number of Students: 21 (Max. Enrollment Capacity: 30)
  - Number of Applicants: 76
  - Certificate Program aimed at students who are interested in the health professions but need some additional academic experience before applying for further health sciences training
  - Program is deemed the most affordable and successful in the south eastern region with 35% of students matriculating into medical school or dental school programs upon completion

Dean Hall said many in this program are underrepresented minority students. He informed the committee discussions are in progress with Claflin University to launch a new pipeline program that would provide students just below the level of competitiveness a chance to matriculate into this program and position them for further health sciences training.

- Biomedical Science (Masters and Ph.D. Programs)
  - Number of Students: 23 MS students; 53 Ph.D. students (Max. Capacity: 30 MS; 60 Ph.D.)
  - Number of Applicants: 47 MS; 49 Ph.D.
  - The Biomedical Sciences Graduate program and the Office of the Associate Dean for Research/Graduate Education, was awarded a research training grant from the American Heart Association
  - Students in the program have enjoyed success in the last year: 4 Ph.D. students received pre-doctoral grant awards and 1 Presidential Fellow was noted in the program
- Nurse Anesthesia (Masters)
  - Number of Students: 56 (Max. Enrollment Capacity: 90)
  - Number of Applicants: 98
  - Program preparing for the evolution from Masters to a Doctoral Program to take effect in 2019 per new national requirements
  - Above average National Certification (Board) first-time pass rates

Dean Hall shared there was 100% employment of students upon completion of the program. In response to a question by President Pastides regarding salaries for program graduates, it was noted beginning salaries for these graduates are in the \$130,000 to \$170,000 range in South Carolina.

- Physician Assistant (Masters)
  - Number of Students: 20, will increase to 30 per year in 2018 (Max. Enrollment Capacity: 90)
  - Number of Applicants: 426
  - Successful integration of ultrasound and inter-professional opportunities throughout the curriculum

- School's newest graduate program with the first class about eight months into the program – highly competitive program with a lot of interest among applicants
- Genetic Counseling (Masters)
  - Number of Students: 17 (Max. Enrollment Capacity: 16)
  - Number of Applicants: 176
  - Nationally recognized “jewel” with a reputation for excellence
  - Program receives over 20 applicants for every space in the first-year entering class

Dr. Hall said the need for genetic counseling has increased significantly in the past five years and he would like to see the program grow. Limiting factors include number of faculty, physical space and available clinical sites.

- Rehabilitation Counseling (Masters)
  - Number of Students: 38 (Max. Enrollment Capacity: 60)
  - Number of Applicants: 20
  - Program undergoing evolution from 48 to 60 credit hours due to changing national accreditation standards

Dean Hall informed the committee it had been the best year to date at the SOM's Florence Campus with over 25 third- and fourth-year students actively learning onsite this year and clinical faculty appointments having increased to just under 100. He reported student feedback continues to be excellent regarding the quality of education they are receiving at the Florence site.

Renovation is underway to prepare space for a future Simulation and Interactive Learning Center being created as a result of a partnership between the SOM and the Dorn VA Medical Center. The VA is contributing \$2 million in equipment for the Simulation Center. The state-of-the-art facility will be available to benefit all health professional students in the SOM and Dorn VA clinicians.

Dean Hall highlighted the ongoing Rural Health Center of Excellence efforts, a collaboration among state-funded health sciences schools and agencies in South Carolina. He noted a new pipeline scholarship program was launched this year that will offer substantial scholarship resources to students willing to commit to serving in rural, underserved areas in South Carolina after graduation.

He reported the past year had been a good one for research in the SOM. The school had its best year to date with external research funding coming in just under \$58 million, an increase of about \$8 million over the previous year. The SOM also recently established a Research Center for Transforming Health, a product of its strategic planning process last year. This center will be focused specifically on

linking together basic science researchers with clinicians at the bedside to promote additional, translational research.

Dean Hall said advocating for a new Health Sciences Campus remained a top priority and thanked Board members for their efforts in this area. He shared that when meeting with SOM alumni around the country, the University's planned Health Sciences Campus was the number one topic he was asked about.

Dean Hall reported it had been almost 18 months since the Palmetto Health-USC Medical Group was officially launched. The medical group has seen tremendous growth and now includes approximately 500 physicians and 200 advanced practice providers, and over 2,200 team members working at over 100 sites. Focus for the next year is the completion of the Electronic Medical Records (EMR) project to update and unify all medical records at the various sites. Improvements in access to care and telemedicine capability are also ongoing focus areas. A strategic planning initiative for the Medical Group is planned over the next 12 months.

Chairman Fennell stated this update was received as information.

V. Report: USC School of Medicine Greenville Joint Board Liaison Committee (JBLC)

Chairman Fennell called on Dr. Smith who reported the Joint Board Liaison Committee (JBLC) of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine (USCSOM) Greenville met on May 16, 2017, by telephone conference call. He informed Trustees a new USCSOM Greenville Business and Financial Officer, Kristin Lacey, was introduced by Dean Jerry Youkey. He then highlighted action items from the meeting to include: approval of past meeting minutes; FY 2017-2018 budget recommendation approval; change in JBLC meeting frequency from four times per year (February, May, August and November) to three times per year (February, May and November); as well as a change in term of Committee Chair to two years (instead of one), with the chair position continuing to rotate between the Greenville Health System and the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Smith added the committee also received a general update on the USC School of Medicine Greenville and an overview of the newly formed GHS Health Sciences Center from Dean Youkey.

Chairman Fennell said this report was received as information.

VI. JBLC Chairship – Recommendation for Change in Length of Term

Mr. Parham presented a recommendation to change the term-length of the JBLC Chair for consideration to the Committee (as amended by striking the third paragraph in the proposed document, which read: WHEREAS, the Authority assigned its interests in the Operating Agreement to GHS effective October 1, 2016; and).

Chairman Fennell called for a motion to recommend approval (as amended) by the full Board that the Operating Agreement between the University of South Carolina and the Greenville Health System for the operation of the USC School of Medicine Greenville be amended to change the term of the JBLC Chair to two years (from one), with the chair position continuing to rotate between the Greenville Health System and the University of South Carolina, and direct University Counsel to prepare the appropriate document to so amend the current Operating Agreement.

Dr. Smith so moved and Mr. Whittle seconded the motion. The vote was taken and the motion carried.

VII. Organizational Overview: USC School of Medicine Greenville and Greenville Health System

Secretary Heath announced this item would be deferred to a future meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Since there were no other matters to come before the committee, Chairman Fennell declared the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Cantey Heath, Jr.  
Secretary