

## MINUTES

Alumni Society Board of Governors  
November 10, 2008  
Sangamo Club

### Present:

Sumer Allensworth, Class of 2010	Sheryl Lloyd
Linda Allison, MD	Cris Milliken
Thomas Baumann, MD	Kari Oxford, Class of 2012
Doug Carlson, MD	James Phoenix, MD
Deborah Case	Julie Robbs
Erik Constance, MD	Wesley Robinson-McNeese, MD
Jennifer Creamer, Class of 2009	Sara Rubenacker, Class of 2011
James Cunnar, MD	Gary Rull, MD
Denise Davis, MD	Joseph Sutton, MD
J. Kevin Dorsey, MD	Christopher Sweeney, MD
Ann Hamilton	Andrew Varney, MD
Stephen Hazelrigg, MD	Robert Woodward, MD

President Doug Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:10PM.

1. Welcome and introductions were extended to the new Student Representative Board members – Kari Oxford, MS I, Sumer Allensworth, MS II, Sara Rubenacker, MS III, and Jennifer Creamer, MS IV.
2. The Minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were approved with one correction.
3. **Dean's Report** – Dr. Dorsey reported that SIU SOM recently received full accreditation from LCME. Fifty-three medical schools had site visits this year and we were the only school with no citations for deficiencies. The school has had three faculty members receive the Hubbard Award for outstanding medical education performance over the years. Eighteen percent of our graduates have gone into Family and Community Medicine residencies in the past 3 years. That ranks us third in the nation for graduates who pursue a career in Family Medicine; a high for us. Dr. Dorsey also reported that we had about 1,300 applicants for the 72 seats in each class; those are only in-state applications. At the present time we have about 270 residents and fellows, 370 faculty, including 220 clinical faculty, making us the largest multi-specialty group in Springfield. We have officially taken possession of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute (SCCI) and are working with state officials to secure the funding needed to operate the building. He would like to have a future board meeting there to give members an opportunity to tour the SCCI. We have had great support from the two hospitals, about \$25 million in funds, to support clinical faculty recruiting in various specialties. Currently we are recruiting approximately 50 physicians for the group practice plan. New faculty at the SCCI have contributed significantly to SIU SOM obtaining more NIH funding, which has grown six-fold in the past five years, due to the hiring of new oncology faculty. We currently have

four endowed chairs and may have an additional two. We just finished our first capital campaign and the SOM raised 28% of the total dollars pledged to the entire university.

4. **Student Activity Report** – Dr. Constance provided a fact sheet that was prepared for the Board of Trustees regarding student admissions and cost of medical education for students and their financial debt. He noted that 60% of our students, in the past 5 years, have come from towns with populations of less than 50,000. Twelve students in the first year class are from towns with populations of less than 2,500. Over half of SIU SOM students came from blue-collar backgrounds and roughly one-third of those parents had no college education. He stated that we take many students from smaller communities and from disadvantaged backgrounds. The cost of a medical education is approximately \$125,000 and Dr. Constance stressed that we do not want to increase tuition. He noted that that tuition fees are set up on semesters which explains the difference in costs per year; tuition is only 30% of what it costs to educate a medical student. Most students use financial assistance and survive on loans due to lack of scholarships. The average debt for students graduating this year was \$144,000 and most students finance this for 30 years. Between 2002 and 2004, state support for the school had dropped. Currently we are able to make loans to students without using private sources and no student here has dropped out due to lack of loan availability.

The question was raised regarding how much money is available to students from scholarships. Dr. Constance replied that most of our scholarships are from the General Assembly and their funding causes us a loss of about \$1 million dollars per year; thus we are out tuition money. The board discussed ways to create more scholarships. Dr. Dorsey suggested that we ask for student input into what they would like to see the alumni donations fund. Deborah Case noted that donations can be designated for certain accounts, i.e. Student Resource Fund, scholarships, departments, etc. Dr. Constance added that he, Ms. Case, Dr. Carlson, Mr. Davis and Ms. Robbs have been discussing developing different scholarship programs, one in particular is an alumni mentor scholarship.

Dr. McNeese reported that one of the tasks he was assigned to was to increase the number of under-represented minorities in the student body. He stated that when he started his position 7 years ago, about 3% of the SIU SOM students were minorities and now it is at 19% across all four classes. His office nurtures those students as they go through medical school and many come from underprivileged backgrounds and need support along the way. He stated that in the past, students from the MEDPREP program went elsewhere for medical school, but currently about 25% of those students are attending SIU SOM. He would like to change from a “Minority” office towards being the “Diversity/Multicultural Affairs” office. The Diversity Leadership Group at the SOM has formed with various people from different departments around the school who want to see diversity championed on this campus. He reported that the SOM just had its first “Diversity Week” which included lunchtime programs presented by guest speakers. The programs were recorded and are available to view at:  
<http://www.siumed.edu/alumni/video/index.html>

5. **Student Report** – Jennifer Creamer, Class of 2009, expressed excitement regarding student representatives from all four classes being added to the board as ex-officio members. They are looking forward to being more involved. She reported about the student project planting trees at Southwind Park. She noted that students are preparing for the Winter Ball to be held February 7 in Springfield. The first year class is selling SIU SOM apparel for their fundraiser and the orders can be placed at [shopsiusom.com](http://shopsiusom.com) for a limited amount of time. The second year students have adjusted to Springfield, and the third year students are in clerkships; tired but loving it. The fourth year students are looking forward to Match Day in March. Students are pleased with the Gold's Gym membership and they enjoy the new TV in the lounge. The students really appreciate what the alumni do for them through the Student Resource Fund. Ms. Creamer stated that her class is enthusiastic about the HOSTS (Helping Our Students To Succeed) travel program. Ms. Robbs reported that they have had five student HOSTS requests to date. Dr. Constance added that 70% of the SIU SOM students participate in some form of community service and 50% of them are involved in research.

6. **2009 Distinguished Alumni Award** – Dr. Cunnar reported that the Distinguished Alumni committee met and recommends that three of the eight nominations be brought to the board to choose one award recipient. He provided a brief history of the Distinguished Alumni Award, noting that the committee had discussed the Service vs. Achievement categories. Dr. Carlson explained that one award per year coordinates well for the presentation at the commencement program. The board was very pleased with the diversity and merits of the candidates. Following lengthy discussion, the board voted by ballot to award the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award to N. Regina Rabinovich ('82).

Ms. Robbs announced that Dr. Susan Nagele ('81) will be receiving the 2008 Illinois Academy of Family Practice Presidential award at the IAFP Annual Meeting in December. She will not be returning from Africa to accept the award, but someone from the SOM will accept it for her.

7. **Volunteers for Student Resource Fund Committee** – Drs. Woodward and Allison volunteered to serve on this committee. Ms. Robbs noted that Dr. Mueller had already volunteered via e-mail. There will be a student representative from each class on the committee. Ms. Robbs will e-mail Board members who were not present to ask for additional volunteers.

8. **Board Members with Expiring Terms** – Ms. Robbs reported that Dr. Thompson's ('75) first term would be expiring and he is eligible to renew for another term. He has verified that he would like to serve one more term through fall, 2011.

9. **Foundation Report** – Ms. Case reported that the SOM does not have a separate foundation but receives gifts through SIU Foundation, a designated 501 (c)(3) organization with appropriate approval from the Internal Revenue Service, to issue tax-deductible receipts for private gifts received to support SIU. She noted that one letter per year for SIU SOM, the annual fund appeal, is mailed to alumni typically before Thanksgiving. She stated that the Foundation's giving website lists a majority of gift

funds established to support SOM programs. The donor chooses which fund to support. Dr. Constance stated that all scholarship funds are spent each year. Board members inquired about receiving solicitations from Carbondale and the letter of acknowledgment from Carbondale when they are donating to the SOM. Ms. Case explained that SIU SOM alumni are not solicited by the Carbondale campus unless they have received an undergraduate degree from SIU or previously have given to a department or program on the Carbondale campus. The SIU Athletics group has their own set of rules. She stated that because SIU has one foundation, all donors receive an official tax letter/receipt signed by Dr. Rickey McCurry, Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and Chief Executive Officer, SIU Foundation. Donors may also receive a thank you note or letter from Dr. Dorsey. If alumni do not want to be solicited by the Carbondale campus, they should let Ms. Case know and she will have their records marked. Dr. Dorsey asked how members feel about SIU solicitations. Most members commented that they discard the solicitations they prefer not to receive; their main concern is that the monies they donate go directly to the SOM

10. **Other Business** – Ms. Robbs reported that the contract is in place for the student memberships at Gold’s Gym. Students will pay \$50 for family memberships to be paid to SIU SOM. She stated that the YMCA will be building an additional facility in the next two years.

**Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.