

MINUTES
Alumni Society Board of Governors
May 11, 2009
Pearson Museum

Present:

Sumer Allensworth, Class of 2010
Linda Allison, MD
Deborah Bross, MD
Doug Carlson, MD
Deborah Case
William Casperson, MD
Elizabeth Cavanagh, MD
Erik Constance, MD
James Cunnar, MD
Denise Davis, MD
J. Kevin Dorsey, MD
Ann Hamilton

Stephen Hazelrigg, MD
Sheryl Lloyd
Fritz Lower, MD
Cris Milliken
James Phoenix, MD
Julie Robbs
Wesley Robinson-McNeese, MD
Sara Rubenacker, Class of 2011
Joseph Sutton, MD
Christopher Sweeney, MD
Andrew Varney, MD
Robert Woodward, MD

President Doug Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Welcome and introductions were extended to the new board member, Elizabeth Cavanagh, '98.

1. The Minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting were approved.
2. **Dean's Report** – Dr. Dorsey reported that it looks favorable for receiving the additional funding needed to open the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute. He is hopeful for the SCCI to open by July. He reported that students rated their satisfaction with their medical education the highest percentile ranking of all U.S. medical schools in the most recent AAMC database. SIU School of Medicine (SIU SOM) ranks in the 75th percentile for schools with rural graduates. He stated that as a result of the federal stimulus package, 38 research grants were awarded in the first round and SIU SOM received 5 of these. Mary Jo Gorman, Class of 1984, was named one of the top 25 influential women in healthcare in the United States. With respect to patient healthcare and other allied affairs, St. John's Hospital has funded the David Sumner, MD, Endowed Chair in Vascular Surgery; the fifth endowed chair for SIU SOM. He stated that we will top 500,000 patient visits in the clinics this year. SIU SOM will celebrate its 40th year as a medical school in 2010.
3. **Student Activity Report** – Dr. Constance reported on the socioeconomic status of our students. Currently, over 60% of people who are admitted to medical school nationally, have parents who are in the top quartile of income, and 80% are from the top half. We take students from the two bottom quartiles, which may be different than other state institutions. In 1978, the average debt a student graduated with was \$13,000 (43K in today's dollars). In 1988, the debt increased to \$38,000 (68K in today's dollars), in 1998

to \$85,000 (110K in today's dollars), and in 2008 to \$154,000. Our students came in below that figure; 25th percentile in public medical schools. SIU SOM's tuition is about \$12,000 per semester. We are receiving data that is very helpful in comparing SIU SOM to other institutions and the data indicates that we have stayed true to the mission of this medical school. From an admissions standpoint, we hope to continue admitting students who desire to stay in the area. We still have a high percentage of graduates who go into primary care. Discussion followed regarding this year's residency match and the future shortage of residency positions.

Dr. McNeese reported that our campus is warming to the concept of diversity – the whole spectrum, not just racial. The second “Diversity Week” will be held in the South Auditorium Oct. 26 – 30. There will be a number of speakers presenting on the topic of diversity during the lunch hour. Diversity presentations are also built into the curriculum and occur throughout the year. His office is sponsoring a display this year called “Opening Doors, Contemporary African-American Academic Physicians and Surgeons” to occur Aug. 1 – Oct. 28 at St. John's Hospital, Memorial Medical Center, and SIU SOM. He shared highlights of a LCME report regarding faculty recruitment (this report includes Asians as minorities). Since 2005, overall minority faculty at SIU SOM has increased from 19.8% to 23.9%; female faculty members are in the 80th percentile compared to other medical schools. We have a minority faculty recruitment plan that has been in place for two years. Since 2003, the minority student body has increased from 20.9% to 28.5%, and the class of 2008-2009 included 13.4% African-American, 3.4% Latino, 10.3% Asians, and 50.9% female. Seventy students, who are considered under-represented in medicine by AAMC standards, were interviewed in our most recent admissions season. Thirty-six of those students have been accepted, including those who are currently ‘holding’ on our list and those who have withdrawn their acceptance. Nineteen students, who are considered under-represented, are ‘holding’ or ‘acceptances’. Thirteen of those nineteen students are MEDPREP students in Carbondale. Twenty-two alumni attended the May, 2009 MEDPREP reunion held in Carbondale. Dr. Victoria Nichols-Johnson will be retiring June 11, having been with SIU SOM for 33 years. Dr. McNeese is pursuing the re-institution of a pre-matriculation tutorial system for the first year medical students. Dr. Constance stated there had been a study at the end of last year indicating that schools with more diversity in the student body produced better physicians. Dr. McNeese added that it caused the students to be more engaged academically, making discussions more robust, students learned from each other and made them better students.

4. **Student Report** – Ms. Allensworth, Class of 2010, reported that the Winter Ball was a big success. Next year the Winter Ball will be held at the Hilton. A group of students participated in “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes”, a program that raises awareness of violence towards women. She stated that this is “Senior Week”, and commencement will be held on Saturday. The third-year students are finishing clerkships, working on their schedules for fourth year, and studying for USMLE Step 2. Ms. Allensworth inquired if the AAMC Graduation Questionnaire results could be made available to potential applicants. Ms. Rubenacker, Class of 2011, added that the second year students are studying for USMLE Step 1. Ms. Oxford, Class of 2012, was unable to attend but

provided a written report. First year students are finishing up their final unit and preparing for the move to Springfield. Their schedules are full, but excitement is starting to brew on becoming a MSII. They will have all completed the dissection of their cadavers. Before they leave Carbondale, they will host a potluck for the standardized patients, put together the Cadaver Ceremony, and throw an end of year dinner party. June 5th is their last exam day. The students greatly appreciate the Board's support.

5. **Student Resource Fund** – Dr. Allison presented the committee's recommendations. She reported that two proposals need further Board discussion prior to final approval. After brief discussion, Dr. Carlson recommended that the decision for the Family Medicine request be tabled until we receive a letter from Dr. Lausen informing us if the requested items for the proposed skills clinic are required in the Family Medicine clerkship and how this fits in the core third-year curriculum. It is not clear if all avenues have been explored. Following lengthy discussion regarding the two proposals, Dr. Woodward made a motion to approve the committee's recommendations including the MKSAP 4 books for the Internal Medicine clerkship. The FCM request is tabled until further information is available and a vote will be taken via email.

6. **Volunteers for Distinguished Alumni Committee** – Drs. Woodward, Cunnar, Bross, Casperson, Allison, Phoenix, and Cavanagh volunteered to serve on this committee.

7. **Volunteers for Nominating Committee** – Drs. Sweeney, Davis, Woodward, Baumann, Rull, and Cunnar volunteered to serve on this committee. Dr. Cunnar will chair this committee as a function of his office as Vice President.

8. **Board Members with Expiring Terms** – Ms. Robbs reported that Drs. Bross, Checchia, Shabazz, Varney, and Sweeney's terms will expire at the fall, 2009 meeting. Dr. Davis is eligible to renew her term.

9. **Foundation Report** – Ms. Case reported that the annual appeal occurs each fall before Thanksgiving. She added that if no response is received from the alumni, there is a telethon in the spring. The event is carefully coordinated with the other SIU colleges, and students who call the alumni are trained. She reminded board members that if they would like to be taken off the solicitation list to let her know. Ms. Case explained that the Student Resource Fund is supported by only School of Medicine alumni. Alumni must earmark their donations to the Student Resource Fund. Non-earmarked contributions are deposited into the Dean's Excellence Fund. There was brief discussion of possible alternatives for communicating with the alumni. Ms. Case stated that a plan is being discussed to increase student scholarships and she will provide further information at the next meeting.

10. **Other Business** – Ms. Robbs reported that the April Dinner with the Dean in Edwardsville was successful. Twenty-one alumni and guests were present. She stated that plans are being made for a 40-year celebration for the School of Medicine in 2010. Ms. Creamer, Class of 2009, will be graduating this month and a representative for the

Class of 2013 will be added in the fall. Ms. Robbs encouraged members to take a look at the updated alumni website. It was announced that Robert Smith, class of 1987 and former board member, passed away recently.

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