



## **MINUTES**

### **Alumni Society Board of Governors**

**May 6, 2019**

Robert Woerner Conference Room  
315 West Carpenter, Simmons Cancer Institute  
Springfield, IL

**Present:**

Milton Armstrong, MD	Cris Milliken
Rik Austin, MD	Steve Raben, MD
Careyana Brenham, MD	Susan Reeder, MD
Elizabeth Cavanagh, MD	Brian Reinholz, Class of 2019
Mary Jo Davies	Julie Robbs
Robert Farmer, MD	Hal Smith
Lisa Fowler	Connor Stephenson, Class of 2021
Aaron Hancock, Class of 2020	Elek Wellman, Class of 2020
Jacqueline Harris, MD	Lisa Wichterman, MD
Michael Honan, MD	Michael Williamson, MD
Nedra Joyner, MD	Matt Winkleman, MD
Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH	

**Absent:**

Rik Constance, MD  
Wendi El-Amin, MD  
David Goldberg, MD  
Breck Jones, MD  
Robert Juranek, MD  
Joyce Miller, MD  
Mark Schmelzel, MD  
Kelli Webb, MD  
Tabatha Wells, MD

**Guest:**

Patsy Wappel

**1. Call to Order**

President Dr. Cavanagh called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Cavanagh welcomed members and guests and introductions were made.

**3. Approval of October 29, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 29, 2018 minutes.

#### **4. Dean's Update**

Dr. Kruse provided a report on the following:

- a. Strategic Plan 2019 – many scenarios possible for the future; he welcomes the Alumni Board's input.
- b. Lincoln Scholars Program – Eight positions will be available to the program in Carbondale; they must be accepted to the SOM first and signify interest in this program.
- c. Match Day 2019 – The percentage of SIU Graduates who enter a residency program in Illinois is on an upward trend with 43% for 2019 compared to 32% in 2018.
- d. We were the 103<sup>rd</sup> medical school; there are now 196. We have recently added fellowships in Cardiology, Hematology-Oncology, Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine
- e. Aspire to Excellence Awards – SIU School of Medicine is the only medical school in the world to hold ASPIRE Awards of Excellence in five areas: Assessment of Students, Student Engagement in the Curriculum, Social Accountability of the School, Medical Simulation and Curriculum Delivery and the 5<sup>th</sup> that the SOM will receive in August, 2019 is "Innovation".
- f. The SOM has a new center named cHOP – Center for Human and Organizational Potential that includes professional development, excellence & leadership, and wellness; Dr. Sue Hingle was named associate dean.
- g. Basic Science Research at SIU – Dr. Kruse announced the members of the group: Drs. Brandon Cox, Andrea Braundmeier-Fleming, Eric Hascup, Judy Davie, Buck Hales, Kevin Hascup, Andy Wilber and Shelley Tischkau.
- h. Facilities Update – Dean's Lobby renovation will include a remodel of the three conference rooms assisted financially by two alumni.
- i. Endowed Chairs – Department of Emergency Medicine David L. Griffen, MD, PhD Endowed Chair with Dr. Chris McDowell '05 being named first recipient. Department of Internal Medicine Sergio Rabinovich, MD with Dr. John Flack, MD, MPH being named first recipient.
- j. SIU System News – Dr. J. Kevin Dorsey was named interim president for the SIU System, and Dr. John Dunn is the interim chancellor at SIU Carbondale.
- k. Finances – financial condition of the state remains the greatest challenge
- l. SIU Medicine Administrative Updates – include Ortho, GI and Endo faculty (Dr. Kruse will provide his SIU SOM 2-page update following the meeting). Hal Smith was recently hired as the Executive Director for Development.
- m. Employment Engagement Survey – April 22-May 3, 2019; Results will be reported.

Dr. Armstrong, who has several family members who attended SIU-C, expressed concern re: loss of students in Carbondale; the perception is stagnancy. Dr. Kruse noted that in twelve years, the numbers decreased from 23,000 to 13,000 enrollment.

#### **5. Office of Student Affairs Update**

In Dr. Constance's absence, the 2019 Match was distributed to members for their information.

#### **6. Student Class Updates**

- Mr. Reinholz, Class of 2019, reported that 63 of the 65 fourth year students matched and most are pleased with their match. He commented this is his final meeting as class president and thanked the Board for everything it has done for the medical students. He added that he has been inspired by the alumni.
- Mr. Hancock, Class of 2020, reported that this is the third year of the restructured clerkship curriculum and a good opportunity to explore other disciplines during school breaks. He also reported that the proceeds from the Junaia P. Carter, Class of 2010, 5K were awarded to Mercy Communities. Donations and volunteer opportunities continue to occur at Enos Elementary School.

- Mr. Stephenson, Class of 2021, reported that students are preparing for exams. On behalf of the students, he thanked the Board for supporting the Winter Ball, the opportunities at the YMCA, and the new television through the Student Resource Fund.
- Mr. Wellman, Class of 2022, commented there are three weeks left in Carbondale and there is a great group of medical students coming to Springfield! He emphasized the importance of supporting each other as they continue their medical school journey.

## **7. Alumni Board Strategic Plan**

Dr. Cavanagh opened discussion inquiring if there is a need for a strategic plan for the Alumni Society Board of Governors as the bylaws are very well written and include the board and society's mission. Currently, some of the ways alumni board members support the Alumni Society are the following: HOSTS program for fourth year students, hosting student/alumni dinners in Springfield and Carbondale, letting applicants or students shadow them, mentoring/precepting students and residents, referring patients to SIU Medicine, promoting the Distinguished Alumni Program through recommendations for the Service and Achievement Awards, through the Advocacy Committee and the Wellness Committee, and most of all—serving as ambassadors. She asked interested members to contact her. Ms. Robbs distributed the Board member and officer responsibilities document.

## **8. Student Resource Fund**

Dr. Joyner stated that the mission of the Student Resource Fund, created in 1997, is to provide a source of money to enhance the student experience by funding educational and social needs that cannot be met through other fund sources to benefit a large number of medical students. Funding comes from alumni gifts. She updated the Board on the status of the Fund including current balances and expenditures. The board recommended funding for: 1) Subsidy for the 2020 Winter Ball (\$4000), 2) medical equipment for MS1s (\$149.03) for the Carbondale PDL, and 3) YMCA gym premier memberships at \$16,275 which includes direct family members living with the student which promotes time with family, access to both locations, fitness classes, health and wellness centers, indoor pools, racquetball courts, indoor track and the gyms for basketball, volleyball, etc. reduced program fees and more. Dr. Joyner added that student feedback continues to be positive and usage information was reviewed by the committee. She added that a television was purchased at \$326.24 to replace the old, broken television in the Springfield student lounge, and an industrial toaster and 2 microwaves were purchased for the Carbondale student lounge to replace broken appliances at a total of \$528.58 earlier so that the students did not have to wait until May for these replacements (see below). A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations as presented funding a total of \$21,278.85. All approved.

She explained that occasionally there are items that the students need sooner than waiting until the spring board meeting for approval to purchase items so late in their academic year. The SRF Committee proposed and the Board approved the following for attachment to SRF Committee Procedures:

- a. An emergency fund shall be established for the SRF Committee to use in the absence of the full Board, not to exceed the amount of \$1500 in one calendar year, for incidentals/small items needed throughout school year.
- b. In the absence of the full Alumni Board, the SRF Committee has the discretion to use emergency funds to replace or remediate any equipment or other item that no longer can be used but directly affects the medical students on either campus up to the cap amount in one calendar year. The amount used must be mutually agreed upon by the executive officers and the Director of Alumni Affairs. The amount will be disclosed to the full Alumni Board at the next meeting.

## **9. Advocacy Committee Update**

Dr. Rik Austin reported that he will be meeting with Mr. John Charles, SIU System Director of Government and Public Affairs, and Ms. Robbs to discuss committee matters.

## **10. Foundation Updates and Activities**

Mr. Smith introduced himself to the Alumni Board as the new Executive Director of the SIU SOM Foundation. Mr. Smith updated the Board on the following areas:

- a. FY19 Alumni Giving Report with class year donation information and a summary of the top five and bottom five class giving based on percentage of participation and amount given
- b. Forever SIU Campaign
- c. Day of Giving – specifically, \$8000 donated to Student Resource Fund and \$5,000 in MD student scholarship funds
- d. Scholarships – awarded 51 of 75 scholarships
- e. Reunion 2019 Class Giving Update
- f. Investiture Update – David L Griffen, MD, PhD, Endowed Chair of Emergency Medicine—Christopher McDowell '05; and Sergio Rabinovich, MD, Endowed Chair of Internal Medicine—John Flack MD.

Dr. Williamson added a report from the most recent SIU Foundation meeting in Carbondale. He stated that members of the SIU-C Foundation Board feel encouraged with the appointment of interim Chancellor at SIU-C, Dr. John Dunn; however, budget issues continue to be a strong worry for all concerned. He encouraged alumni to support the SIU System.

## **11. Physician Wellness**

Dr. Cavanagh opened discussion regarding a productive way to provide physician wellness resources to our alumni. Mayo Clinic offers a free 9-question anonymous test exploring this topic including resources and videos individualized to your answers. Recommendations were made to make this available on the Alumni Affairs website and refer alumni using our various means of communication. It was recommended to offer this subject matter in the form of CME during reunions and make available to other classes as well. Dr. Cavanagh will provide further updates on this matter. Dr. Armstrong suggested the offering of incentives for reaching goals such as picnics, cookery, baseball games.

## **12. Alumni Activities**

Ms. Robbs reported the following:

- a. The HOST program was a huge success this year with a record number of student requests. She thanked all alumni who participated this year and reinforced the benefits of this program to both students and alumni hosts. Feedback and the 11-year summary report were provided to members which reflects a total of 301 submitted requests, 190 matches, 82% requests have been filled, 216 total hosts (some are married), 842 alumni contacts, and students have saved over \$24,425 (an average cost savings per student interview of \$133.93).
- b. The Student/Alumni Dinners were offered in Springfield (5<sup>th</sup> annual) and Carbondale (1st) in March. Twenty-five alumni hosted 69 students and 7 guests in Springfield; 19 alumni hosted 42 students and 2 guests in Carbondale. The dinners provide students an opportunity to spend time with alumni outside of clinical surroundings. Ms. Robbs provided the Board with student feedback from both Springfield and Carbondale. Mr. Stephenson commented that the dinners offer students the time to step away from the books and thanked the Board for the opportunity. Dr. Wichterman commented that she and her husband have hosted medical students each year and reinforced how beneficial the program is to all who participate.

- c. Ms. Robbs announced registrations are coming in for Reunion 2019. Reunion is June 21 and 22, 2019 for the classes of '79, '89, '94, '99, '04 and '09.
- d. An alumni dinner was held in Orlando April 9, 2019. Dr. Kruse, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Robbs met with area alumni and guests.
- e. Dr. Senait Fisseha '99, the 2019 SIU SOM Distinguished Alumna, will be here May 17-18, 2019 to accept her award during commencement and will be the main commencement speaker. She will also be presenting at the AOA annual dinner.
- f. Dr. Jim Medder '76 was elected to alumni membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society by the ETA Chapter of Illinois for 2019.
- g. *Aspects* is now being offered in print and digital formats by the Office of Marketing and Communication starting in January 2020. Recipients must update preferences using the online form or return the form from the magazine. Notices will be publicized.
- h. Activities for the SIU/SOM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are being planned with events at all centers. Alumni Affairs will be highlighting 50 alumni in *Aspects* and on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary webpage. Reunion 2020 will include the 50<sup>th</sup> theme event honoring the classes of '75, '80, '84/'85, '90, '95, '00, '05 and '10.

Ms. Robbs named those Board members' whose terms will end in the fall and those whose terms are renewable. Additionally, Alumni Society Board of Governor's committee appointments will be made prior to the fall 2019 meeting.

Mr. Stephenson will not be returning as the Class of 2021 representative and Mr. Reinholz is graduating, making the May meeting the last for both. On behalf of the Alumni Society Board of Governors, Dr. Cavanagh presented certificates of appreciation and thanked both for their wonderful service and noted that we hope to see them back as alumni on the board.

### **13. Recognition**

Ms. Robbs and Dr. Cavanagh announced that Cris Millken is retiring effective June 30, 2019. A framed certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate were presented to Ms. Milliken for her years of service to the Alumni Society and the SIU School of Medicine.

### **14. Other Business/Announcements**

No other business to report.

### **15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.