

October 17, 2022
Board of Governors Meeting Minutes
Simmons Cancer Institute – Robbins-Woerner Conference Room

Members in Attendance:

Jerry Kruse, MD; Matt Winkleman, MD; Rik Austin, MD; Austin Beason, MD; Careyana Brenham, MD; Elizabeth Collins, MD; Nicole Florence, MD; Jason Gillihan, MD; Diane Hillard-Sembell, MD; Haneme Idrizi, MD; Breck Jones, MD; Michael Pick, MD; Susan Reeder, MD; Mark Schmelzel, MD; David Skillrud, MD; Stephen Soltys, MD; Christine Todd, MD; Tabatha Wells, MD; Cassie Mattson, CMP; Kate Moore, MS; Hal Smith, MPA; Katie Oxby.

Members Absent:

Sean Hollonbeck, MD; Jesse Hsieh, MD; Stephen Raben, MD; Lisa Wichterman, MD

Medical Students in Attendance:

Emilee Gibson, MS4; Joey Maiocco, MS3; Molly Smith, MS2; Madison Nelson, LSP.

Medical Students Absent:

Maddie Stacey, MS1

Guests:

Dr. Shreep Tephathy; Ademola Adeoshun, MS4; Nicholas Porter, MS3.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Matt Winkleman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MAY 9, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Michael Pick and Dr. Susan Reeder seconded the motion for meeting minute approval.

3. OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Haneme Idrizi is the new Associate Dean for Student Affairs & Admissions (Springfield).

- Females (48); Males (32); African American (13); Latinx (5)
- MCAT Averages: 2020 (507); 2021 & 2022 (508)

Medical Student Food Needs

Dr. Idrizi is working with Dr. Christine Todd and cHOP at the School of Medicine to get this program off the ground. They want to establish a Food Pantry for medical students' food needs. She brought a group to the meeting to discuss more in-depth the necessity for this project and how it can and will impact our medical students for the better.

- Ademola Adeoshun, MS4, presented how to get the medical student food pantry moving forward. He discussed how not all students can rely on family members and do not have the time to work multiple jobs to afford groceries. This is an issue because financial aid is only dispersed in August and January, and the students get desperate when the money gets low, and most have no options other than to get jobs to pay for things like groceries, laundry, rent, etc. These are all things that the food pantry could house to help the medical students during the current rise in gas and grocery prices. He thanked the Alumni Board for considering helping their cause and hopes this will be a high priority.

- Nicholas Porter, MS3 Wellness Chair, presented on food insecurity. Budgeting is not always the culprit when it comes to medical student food insecurity. His example was even if you have money in savings; if your car breaks down, there goes all your money, then what do you do? He reiterated that many students do not have the option to ask their families for money, and getting a job is their only choice to earn cash between financial aid disbursement dates. He is excited about the upcoming wellness activities and hopes the food pantry will take off soon.
- Dr. Nicole Florence added that the YMCA has a strong relationship with Blue Cross Blue Shield; they have a food box giveaway once a month. Then the YMCA teaches them how to cook the food they are given.

After listening to the group, Dr. Matt Winkleman wanted to know what they needed and how the Board of Governors could help them with this project. Dr. Idrizi said they want to start a Medical Student Wellness/Food Insecurity Fund. This could be done by collaborating with the Alumni by having them invite people to their houses for dinners/cooking classes. She is hopeful that the insecurities will go down once we get this started and maintain items in the food pantry. Dr. Winkleman suggested they submit a request to Student Resource Fund for support since this would benefit the medical students.

- Hal Smith, SIU Foundation Office, stated that he would begin the paperwork to focus on the food insecurity for the day of giving along with medical student scholarships and wellness. He also added that when he speaks to the public, he will continue to do all he can and ensure this is well known and brought up continuously to ensure the students are taken care of.

4. Dean's Update

Dr. Jerry Kruse presented how things are going at the school, and the programs continue to grow. He pointed out that the Graduate Student numbers would likely grow because we will implement our umbrella graduate program next year. The following numbers were presented in the Dean's PowerPoint Presentation comparing numbers to SIU School of Medicine programs. The following numbers are projected for the fiscal year 2023: Medical Students, including a complete Lincoln Scholars Program (320), Resident Physicians (425), Physician Assistants (180), Graduate Students (80), and MEDPREP Students (72). Dr. Kruse also stated that the graduate students and the MEDPREP programs would continue to increase due to the implementation of new umbrella programs.

The Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)

SIU School of Medicine was one of two inaugural winners of the Stellar Award. The largest Medical Education Association in the entire world was presented this past year in Europe. Dr. Kruse, three staff members, and two medical students attended and presented at this event. SIU School of Medicine was seen as an international expert at this event regarding medical education. AMEE promotes global excellence in education in the healthcare professions across the range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing education. It has members in more than 90 countries and across five continents.

2019 Council of Deans Meeting – New Orleans, LA

Dr. Kruse and 156 other Deans from across the country attended this event. He met Dr. Andrew Lee, the new Dean, and Provost of UT Southwestern Dallas Medical School. He was formerly chair of plastic surgery at Johns Hopkins; Dr. Lee commented on how SIU School of Medicine has the best plastic surgery program in the whole nation. In the last ten years, SIU Carbondale as an entity – we are officially part of this entity. Four units have won national championships: debate, physician assistant program, aviation program, and plastic surgery.

Building Update

Dr. Kruse revealed blueprints and explained the need for a new building, including new education facilities. SIU keeps growing, and so does the need for space which includes plans for coffee and sandwich shops. 801 educational building is over 50 years old and needs to be upgraded. Community-based programs are growing and need more space as well. The plans include conference centers, a cafeteria, a coffee shop, food, and more room on campus's north and south ends. Dr. Kruse wanted the Alumni Board to know about this so they could have input on what could be included in the plans and naming opportunities like the University of Missouri, which has their tutor rooms named after Alumni Donors.

- Dr. Susan Reeder asked if they have considered putting in medical student housing. Dr. Kruse said Yes, that is currently under consideration, and they are discussing funding for that. The railroad goes down 3rd street moving to the new Amtrack station by 2025. SIU has been working with the Medical District and Enos Park to tackle medical student housing initiatives. There has been a lot of talk about building this for medical and law students, but all of this is still just being discussed, and everything is still in the preliminary stages.

Expanding SIU Medicine Student Programs

Dr. Kruse stated that there would be more opportunities and new student programs. Some examples include research pathways, education pathways, expanding MDMPH programs, and new MD/Ph.D. programs.

- Molly Smith – MPH Program Question – Could the umbrella grad program be part of this rather than a separate program in Carbondale? Dr. Kruse told her he has been working closely with Dr. Sameer Vohra and Dr. Wiley Jenkins about the umbrella graduate program and incorporating it with what the medical students do rather than a separate program.

No Questions.

5. Office of Alumni Affairs

Cassie Mattson, Director of Alumni Affairs, presented on staffing changes. The department hired Cathy Gobleman as a part-time Extra help position. Her primary role is dealing with lots of files, scanning everything we have in file cabinets for us to go paperless. We also hired a new Events Administrator Associate position – Sidney DeLeonardo. Ms. DeLeonardo also holds a yoga teaching certification which she's excited to use as we grow our wellness program for students and alumni. She is very creative, and we look forward to working with her.

Reunion 2023 Update

This reunion includes eight classes (classes ('78, '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08,' 13) on June 23-24, 2023. Registration/Committees. The 2023 class reunion outreach communication was sent out to interested members to start the committees, which hopefully helped the Alumni department get things out sooner to boost our attendance. Ms. Mattson sent out a survey request to the classes to see what they would like and wanted their input regarding things that could bring them back to Springfield. We ended up having 65 alumni participate in the survey and received a long list of ideas to consider along with validation on whether to keep and add specific programs to the 2-day event. The survey results were presented to the board in their meeting packets.

Events Update

- **Peoria Alumni Reception:** Not many alumni showed up, but this was a small intimate gathering. Still, it was very well perceived, and the alumni who attended had a great time, and discussions lasted for hours.
- **Early Career Award Community Celebration:** Dr. Elizabeth Stewart, class of 2007, was the recipient of this award. Ms. Mattson and Alumni Society Board President Dr. Matt Winkleman traveled to Memphis to present her with this award. It has been discussed that in the future, for Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients, we will go where they are to provide them with a small celebration for their award.
- **SIU System Alumni & Friends Reception:** SIU Edwardsville, Carbondale, and the School of Medicine met and discussed advocacy, and this event is already planned again for next year. This was an excellent opportunity for all the schools to join together here in Springfield to learn about all the schools.
- **Joint Carbondale Alumni Association & SIUSOM Alumni Society Event: Our first partnering event** with Carbondale. It was a free networking social and lecture. Dr. Vidya Sundareshan was the speaker at this event and discussed post covid medical and public health matters. This event showed

our partnership with SIU Carbondale and how both Alumni programs work together to benefit our alumni.

- **2022 Reunion:** Took place on June 24-25, 2022, and attendance numbers for each class were as follows: 1977 (14); 1982 (12); 1987 (4); 1992 (14); 1997 (3); 2002 (6); 2007 (2); 2012 (15). Before this reunion, COVID numbers began spiking, and we encouraged all attendees to wear masks. Attendance was a slight dip at the last minute due to this increase; however, we are optimistic that 2023 numbers will be higher. The Alumni Office sent out a survey to the reunion classes and asked many questions, including what month they preferred and how we could improve the class reunions. Ms. Mattson included this packed with the board members to look over.

Alumni Communications Update

- **Greeting Card Outreach:** Personal notecards and letters to alumni have shown lots of positive feedback for a more personal outreach for the alumni. This campaign started in June, and we've sent over 30 cards. A few alumni have reached out to us after receiving the note, either providing us with further updates for their records or to thank us for thinking of them.

Student Engagement

- **Medical Student Study Snacks:** MS1, MS2, and Lincoln Scholar Program get study snacks. MS3 reached out to class reps for ideas on what to do for them since they are busy and not always on campus. We want to show them we are here for them and care. MS4, we do the graduation gifts of padfolios which the board members also received at tonight's meeting.
- **MS2 Welcome Lunch:** This hot dog welcome lunch took place on August 8th. The Alumni table included a game for each student to participate in, welcome bags full of SIUSOM swag and snacks, and information on how the alumni office will assist them as students once they become alumni.
- **Commencement:** Ms. Mattson attended the 2022 Commencement Rehearsal to congratulate the graduates, say a few words of encouragement, and welcome them into the Alumni Society. Each graduate received a leather padfolio as a gift.
- **White Coat Ceremony:** Ms. Mattson attended the 2022 White Coat Ceremony, and the Alumni Office once again sponsored the White Coats for the new MS1 students and LSP students.
- **YMCA Membership:** The Alumni office continues offering complimentary memberships to all MS2-MS4 students through generous contributions to the Student Resource Fund.
- **HOST Program:** Went virtual for the foreseeable future, and we are looking at ways to revamp the program. The Alumni department wants to begin an Alumni Podcast, which would align students with alumni and would include interviews from alumni in different cities, including community, healthcare culture, and portfolio of all the cities throughout the united stated. The students would have access to this to help them with their residency interviews. This is something we want to expand outside of this program, but this will take resources, and Dr. Florence mentioned MCLI has a podcast studio.

Upcoming Events:

- November 17: Dr. Bowran Virtual Book Reading and Medical Writing.
- January 19: Telehealth Webinar with Q&A by SIU Medicine Telehealth Director Laura Hepp Kessel.
- February TBA: Valentine's Day Cooking Class. Max of 30 people, more details to come.
- Spring 2023: Wellness & Stress Management Symposium with speaker Dr. Kari Wolf. This event will be partnered with SIU Carbondale's Alumni Association.

6. STUDENT RESPONSES

Ms. Mattson asked the student reps to respond to the following questions for the Board:

Emilee Gibson (MS4)

- **For your class, what would you say is the biggest challenge/obstacle you are facing this year?**
 - a. While 4th year of medical school is full of many exciting events and comes with a little more rest than years before, the biggest challenge our class will face this year is likely the residency application process. From completing and submitting the ERAS (which was due last week!) to navigating virtual interviews and eventually ranking and preparing for Match Day, most students are understandably preoccupied with this process. While virtual interviews are not new, many specialties are still adapting and altering how they approach interview invites in this new format. The Office of Student Affairs, in conjunction with the student assembly, has been working to create virtual interview spaces at school for students who are worried about having a quiet, reliable internet set up at home for these interviews. Interview invites will start going out soon and will run through January/February. Our Match day is March 17th (St. Patrick's Day this year!), and we are already working on creating a fun, exciting event with shirts/maps/etc. At MCLI to celebrate our classes' accomplishments on this big day! Once you graduate, your lives are going to be even busier as you begin residency, and your time will be extremely limited.

- **What is something the Office of Alumni Affairs could do/offer/provide to recent graduates that would keep them engaged and in communication with their class and other alumni?**
 - a. As we all move away and jump into our residencies next year, I think the best way to keep recent graduates engaged would be a quarterly newsletter (virtual, paper, or both) that could keep us all up to date on what's going on with the school. It would be nice to get these quick updates not only to see what's happening at the school but also to get updates on alumni (both our class and others). My high school does something similar, and I've always enjoyed it. Other classmates have mentioned something similar as well.

Joey Maiocco (MS3)

- **For your class, what would you say is the biggest challenge/obstacle you are facing this year?**
 - a. The third year is busy with clerkships and other extracurriculars as we prepare for our application year. The biggest challenge most students face is preparing for the next steps. Students, for the most part, are enjoying their transition to clinical education. There is some stress this year with the upcoming Step 2 and the increased weight placed on a single exam compared to previous residency cycles.

- **What are some ways that the Office of Alumni Affairs can assist your class throughout this next year?**
 - a. The Office of Alumni Affairs does a terrific job of supporting students. Continuing to find ways to create opportunities for students is always a priority, whether that be alumni inviting students to participate in initiatives they are involved in or willing to participate in student-run activities, such as interest groups. Continued support from Alumni affairs for initiatives such as YMCA memberships and Winter Ball is extremely appreciated!

Molly Smith (MS2)

- **For your class, what would you say is the biggest challenge/obstacle you are facing this year?**
 - a. In Carbondale, over half the class lived in the same apartment complex, and we only used one building on SIU's campus. Thus, a challenge this year has been the disconnect from peers as we see each other less. Hopefully, after our HII unit and have more time, there will be more class bonding events.

- **What are some ways that the Office of Alumni Affairs could have helped with your transition from Carbondale to Springfield?**
 - a. Everyone has been great with our transition to Springfield. One thing I heard often was that moving was expensive! An idea could be to have an Alumni Affairs-sponsored sale for older students or alumni to participate in and help furnish/stock new places.

Madison Stacey (MS1)

- **For your class, what would you say is the biggest challenge/obstacle you are facing this year?**
 - a. Our current biggest challenge is adjusting to medical school. As problem-based and self-directed learning are incredibly different from most of our undergrad institutions' styles of learning, it has been a challenging shift in both the way we receive information and in the way we study. We just received our Mid-Unit exam grades back, and I'm sure many students will have to shift their studying methods to improve their outcomes.
- **What are some ways that the Office of Alumni Affairs could have helped during your first few months in Carbondale?**
 - a. As we are uncertain how exactly the Office of Alumni Affairs interacts with students and what roles they can play, we currently don't have any feedback on how you could have helped. My only idea or suggestion is that students have found the student-to-student handbook incredibly helpful, and hearing encouragement or advice from alumni would always be welcome.

Madison Nelson (LSP)

- **How has your experience been with the Lincoln Scholars program?**
 - a. My time being a student in the LSP has been a very unique and rewarding experience. Being among the first group of students in a brand-new program, I knew it wasn't always going to be an easy, straightforward process. However, our faculty and staff have done a great job of addressing any of our questions and concerns while genuinely listening to our suggestions and taking action to make improvements. Now being a 3rd-year student, it is very rewarding to see the 1st and 2nd-year students going through a similar but the improved educational process that was made possible by my class and our suggestions. Having the opportunity to complete our clinical rotations during our second year has helped us to integrate our knowledge from lectures and PBL with our patients at an earlier point in our education. Additionally, with completing many of our rotations in rural communities, we have usually been the only learners at that site. This has given us unopposed access to physicians and other medical personnel and has granted us some unique hands-on opportunities that we may not have had otherwise.
- **In what areas could the Office of Alumni Affairs help increase satisfaction for you and future LSP classes?**
 - a. Offering more events to talk with alumni, especially regarding things like elective rotations, preparation for residency applications, and preparing for interviews. In the LSP curriculum, we have not had many discussions about these topics, which are very important, especially as my classmates and I are almost halfway through our 3rd year. Maybe even having a 1-on-1 mentor for each LSP student, if enough interest was there, to help bridge the gap of the connections/resources we may be missing out on due to our location in Carbondale.

No Questions.

7. 2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Dr. Matt Winkleman and Ms. Mattson had a distinguished alumni committee meeting before the board meeting. In this meeting, the committee went through the applications and brought forth the following five nominees to the Board for the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards:

- **DA Achievement Award Nominee:** Julie Panepinto, MD '91
- **DA Service Award Nominee(s):** Alison LaFrence, MD '88; Wesley McNeese, MD '86
- **DA Early Career Achievement Award Nominee(s):** Mohsin Khan, MD (Resident) '16; Sameer Vohra, MD '11

All the voting board members had ballots at their seats, and Dr. Winkleman opened the floor up for the discussion of the nominees before the voting. Dr. Diane Hillard Sembell, "Dr. McNeese was our class president for all four years for the class of '86. Throughout his career, he has been amazing." Emilee

Gibson, "Dr. Vohra works closely with the students and would be a great recipient of this award." Dr. Tabatha Wells Seconds Dr. Vohra for people to vote for him. Dr. Steve Soltys says, "It takes time to get the first nomination. A lot of work for nominations after they drop off the list for two years. Important to consider who is going to drop off because there is a lot of work." Dr. Winkleman explained how Dr. LaFrance would be dropped off the nominee list after this year, and Dr. McNeese would be dropped off unless they were renominated next year.

2023 DA VOTING RESULTS

- **Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award:** Julie Panepinto, MD '91
- **Distinguished Alumni Service Award:** Wesley McNeese, MD'86
- **Distinguished Alumni Early Career Achievement Award:** Sameer Vohra, MD '11

8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Austin – Replace four people on the board.

1. Amanda Mulch, '03 (Associate Dean for Student Affairs – Carbondale)
2. Thomas Selby, '13 (Chief Resident)
3. Renee Mueller, '01
4. Elizabeth Valencia, '09

Dr. Austin makes the motion for the board to second all four candidates.

Dr. Michael Pick asked why some people are on the committee for two years, and others are for five years. With an option to renew after three years? Dr. Winkleman explains how everything is a balancing challenge for finding new members between finding people located in other states and outside of the SIU System, all that goes into consideration for nominees. Dr. Winkleman explained that the bylaws are set up so that you have a three-year term, and if you are willing, you can stay for another three years.

Dr. Winkleman asked that All in favor say I: Everyone approved/ No Opposed.

9. PHYSICIAN WELLNESS COMMITTEE & SRF UPDATE

Dr. Wichterman is absent from this meeting, and Ms. Mattson reported to the wellness committee on her behalf.

Wellness Program & Events

Ms. Mattson discussed how the wellness committee would reach out to alumni via survey to ask what interests them and to get new events set up throughout the year.

Student and Alumni Step Challenge

Medical Student/Alumni Fitness Challenge – SOM Alumni up and moving around – Prizes and working on soliciting donations for students and Alumni.

Valentine's Day Cooking Class

Memorial Wellness Center/SIU Culinary Kitchen – February corkscrew/local winery

HOST Program

Podcast wants to expand Financial Wellness Series, Student Interviews, Faculty, Staff, Wellness Minutes, and how much this entails to a weekly/bi-weekly podcast. For Alumni and Students.

Wellness Journal Club

Virtual Alumni wellness club, which would work like a book club reading journal articles and get together once a month and discuss it with everyone.

Student Resource Fund

Current Balance: \$57,374.40

YMCA Membership Invoice: \$17,400.00

Student Memberships to the YMCA - Approved by the Alumni Society Board of Governors 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

Winter Ball: \$5,000.00 call for proposal will go out in January 2023 and will be due in March. The board will be able to vote in the spring meeting on this.

10. FOUNDATION Q&A TO REPORT

Hal Smith with the SIU Foundation Office is Retiring in May 2022. He thanked the board for his time at the Foundation.

Mr. Smith reported that of around 7,000 jobs in the medical district, 2,200 are SIUSOM jobs.

Alumni Giving

Fiscal Year 2022: \$579,120.00

Fiscal Year 2021: \$508,228.05

Significant Gifts

- \$1.2 Million Estate Gift Pledge – Professors Chair of Family Medicine
- \$450K – Doctoral Fellowship
- \$450K – Nurse-Family Partnership grant (final 1/3 of funding package)
- \$314K – Denim & Diamonds gross
- 3 x \$100K – Faculty Support
- 2 x \$100K – Scholarships from alumni
- \$50,000 – Cancer Research gift
- \$10,448 total – to begin a Research Scholars Group
- \$20,300 – Annual Butterfly Release benefitting cancer research
- \$28,592 – On Par for Pediatrics
- \$245K for Alzheimer's research, including \$5,600 in honor of Erin Hascup as the Kenneth Stark Endowed Chair
- \$2.1 – Bradley Schwartz Endowed Chair of Urology

Day of Giving

2023 Day of Giving is March 1, 2023.

2022 - More than \$685,000 from 400 gifts!

2021 - \$393,324 from 394 gifts

Forever SIU Campaign for Southern Illinois University

New Goal: \$500 Million by 2028

SIU SOM Goal: \$40 Million

SIU SOM Totals: Fiscal Year 2022: \$4,627,382.00

Fiscal Year 2021: \$6.4 million

Upcoming Foundation Events

- **Day of Giving 2023** – Wednesday, March 1, 2023
- **Women's Power Lunch** – Friday, April 28, 2023
- **Harbinger Society Event** – Thursday, May 18, 2023
- **Butterfly Release** – TBA June 2023
- **Denim & Diamonds** – Saturday, October 14, 2023

11. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dr. Austin reported on the advocacy committee and discussed how he and Dr. Kruse have been able to get more information on things coming up and bills, which will be huge deals for medical students. He wants

people to join the committee and send an email blast or newsletter on what they expect and work on. This is an opportunity to share with the alumni and students what is happening. Dr. Kruse discussed how Senator Dick Durban has become a huge advocate for SIU School of Medicine and wants to continue to know more about things like prior authorizations. Dr. Christine Todd brought up how people know how to take care of themselves, but what physicians don't know how to do is advocate on a large scale, and it improves their wellness.

12. RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Winkleman recognized the Alumni Society Board of Governors members who are leaving the Board. He presented Dr. Tabatha Wells and Dr. Careyana Brenham with plaques for their hard work and dedication to being on the board. Other members leaving who were not present: were Dr. Jesse Hsieh and Dr. Sean Hollonbeck.

13. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Michael Pick asked how to get the Alumni more involved with student interest groups and how to advocate for the students to get more support for scholarships and other things like the student resource fund. Dr. Winkleman discussed how we could only send out so many emails and newsletters, and he is not sure how best to gain alumni interest without overdoing it. He suggested we follow up on that and try to come up with more ideas and ways to reach out to them.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm