

October 21, 2024
Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Members in Attendance:

Sofya Asfaw, MD, Richard Austin, MD, Elizabeth Montgomery-Collins, MD, Nicole Florence, MD, Jason Gillihan, MD, Diane Hillard-Sembell, MD, Breck Jones, MD, Safiya McNeese-Ruffin, MD, Renee Mueller, MD, Amanda Mulch, MD, Michael Pick, MD, Ron Romanelli, MD, Thomas Selby, MD, David Skillrud, MD, Stephen Soltys, MD, Christine Todd, MD, and Elizabeth Valencia, MD.

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:

Haneme Idrizi, MD, Cassie Mattson, CMP, and Patsy Wappel.

Staff in Attendance:

Nicole Edmiston, Kate Moore, MS, and Millicent Emma Fenyi.

Members Absent:

Mark Schmelzel, MD, Stephen Raben, MD, and Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH.

Medical Students and House Staff in Attendance:

Riley Hochstein, Class of 2028, Tola Adeyefa, Class of 2027, Jack Carnduff, LSP Class of 2027, Tommy Johnston, Class of 2027, Jake Schmid, Class of 2026, Hannah Feldt, Class of 2027, and Matt Weber, MD, Resident.

Medical Students Absent:

Molly Smith, Class of 2025, and Madison Stacey, Class of 2026.

Guests in Attendance:

Chris McDowell, MD, and Richard Selinfreund, MD.

1. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME

Board President Dr. Austin called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm on Monday, October 21, 2024. New Board Members recognized were: Dr. Matt Weber, Tola Adeyefa (student), Jack Carnduff (student), and Riley Hochstein (student).

2. APPROVAL OF MAY 6, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Richard Austin first moved the motion for last meeting's minute approval and it was seconded. Since no one opposed, it was so decided.

3. DEAN'S UPDATE

- ▶ In place of the update from Dr. Kruse (Dean, SIU SOM), Dr. Austin introduced Dr. Chris McDowell (Executive Associate Dean, SIU SOM). He extended the Dean's apology for his inability to attend the meeting due to an equally important engagement.
- ▶ Dr. McDowell informed all about some of the exciting things that the team is working on around AI and development of patient simulation that is really transforming our curriculum. He stated that we have a strong educational reputation as a leader in the field of education

around the world. And we feel that this project has the opportunity to go to enhance our curriculum locally, and help brandish the reputation for us internationally.

- ▶ Dr. Richard Austin welcomed Dr. Selinfreund, who expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to discuss the significance of AI simulation in medical education at SIU.
- ▶ He commented physicians around the country are responding positively to what they have done so far.
 - He also introduced the AI Simulation Project Team (3 SIU Medical Students), who will also be making a presentation the following day to representatives of a mass general hospital.
 - The team presented on the development of AI-driven simulated patients and highlighted their crucial role in enhancing medical education at the institution.

Introduction to AI in Medical Education

The AI Simulation Project Team discussed the use of AI as a communication tool in medical school and the benefits of AI simulated patients in enhancing learning experiences.

Presentation by Medical Students

Hannah Feldt (MS 2) introduced the discussion about the potential of AI in medical education.

Jacob Schmid (MS 3) emphasized that the program offers a more humanistic approach and interaction.

Tommy Johnston (MS 4) suggested that integrating the new AI program into the curriculum would enhance the student experience, particularly where the Problem-Based Learning Model (PDLM) is currently implemented.

Interactive AI Demonstration

- Jake introduced an AI named "Randy" to the Board members, initiating an interactive session where "Randy" responded to various medical questions.

AI Models Overview

- The students shared that they have three AI models: AI 1, AI 2, and AI 3, with "Randy" being AI 2. They projected that students would use this AI to learn at their own pace.
- Tommy stated that the first AI case took over a year to develop, the second case took 2-3 months, and the third case was completed in 2 weeks.

Feedback from Board Members

- Dr. Florence highlighted the potential for the AI model to promote cultural inclusivity.
- Dr. Selinfreund discussed ongoing testing of a software application for real-time analysis on cell phones to aid student learning.
- Dr. Todd pointed out challenges physicians face when interacting with AI. Tommy responded that the students are addressing these issues in their research.
- Dr. Valencia commented on the challenges of inclusivity, diversity, equity, and conversation due to the virtual nature of the AI.
- Dr. Selinfreund added that the team could integrate DEI simulation into their research.

Action Items

- Continue development of AI simulated patients for medical education.
- Explore the possibility of incorporating AI PBLM into the curriculum.
- Explore adding guardrails to guide students in asking appropriate questions and avoiding medical jargon.
- Continue refining the AI system and feedback process.
- Develop and test software for real-time analysis and feedback on clinical scenarios.
- Build and refine cases for different specialties, along with a corresponding code book.
- Seek partnerships with computer experts to enhance interface development.
- Develop the capability to record medical students during virtual encounters for educational purposes.
- Explore inclusion of challenging conversations in virtual patient encounters, addressing issues like handling difficult patients and promoting diversity and inclusion.
- Develop simulations that involve interacting with systems issues, such as negotiating with insurance companies and collaborating with other healthcare professionals.
- Consider incorporating the capability to record virtual encounters to improve communication skills.
- Consider incorporating simulations with family members present to help students practice managing those scenarios.
- The students thanked the Board for their engagement, concluded their presentation and they left with Dr. Richard Selinfreund.

4. OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Idrizi introduced herself and thanked the attendees for the opportunity to discuss ongoing activities in the Student Affairs Office. She expressed her enthusiasm for the accomplishments of the students and presented photo slides from the recent white coat ceremony.

Update on 2028 Student Makeup

- 83 students
- Traditional 75 / LSP 8
- Women 44
- Men 39
- Asian 15
- Black 11
- Hispanic 4
- White 53

Dr. Idrizi acknowledged the current enrollment figures and emphasized the potential for further improvement.

Student Experiences

- MD/JD 2
- MPH 5
- MEDPREP 11
- First Generation 15
- DACA Recipient 1
- Avg Incoming Edu. Debt: \$30,271

- A map was presented illustrating the origins of the incoming 2024 class at SIU School of Medicine, showing that the majority of students are from Sangamon County.
- Dr. Idrizi emphasized the Office's goal of targeting smaller communities for recruitment efforts.

MCAT Averages

- 2024: 507
- 2023: 507
- 2024: 508

UPDATES ON STUDENTS STATUS

Class of 2028

- Traditional Students
 - 1st Unit (CRR)
- Lincoln Scholars Program
 - 3rd Unit (NBM)

Class of 2027

- Traditional
 - Welcome Lunch - August 2nd Unit (CRR)
- Lincoln Scholars Pathway
 - 3rd Clerkship

Class of 2026

- Traditional
 - 4th Clerkship
- Lincoln Scholars Program
 - USMLE Step 1 self-study

Class of 2025

- Traditional and Lincoln Scholars Program
 - Electives
- Mock Interviews
 - Residency Application

OSA Updates

- ALERT
- Timely Care – 204 registrations
- Student Health – townhalls
- Travel Grants
- Student Organization Grants
- Outreach Efforts
- Addressing Food Insecurity/Student Wellness
- Disability Accommodations
- Teaching students about insurance.

Dr. Idrizi noted that the number of students seeking accommodations in medical school has tripled. She reported that the Office is actively working to establish a safe and welcoming environment that encourages these students to come forward and request the necessary support.

Student Wellness & Food Insecurity

- Resource Room & Food Pantry
 - Wellness Room & Quiet room
 - Meal prep giveaways
 - Pizza dinners
 - Art activities
 - Cooking classes
 - Snack giveaways
 - Physical activities
 - Hiking
 - Biking
 - Yoga
- ▣ Dr. Idrizi reported that approximately \$50,000 has been raised to date for the student bonus/security fund, which is utilized to restock the pantry monthly to meet student needs.
- ▣ She noted that the demand for student support increases each month.
- ▣ The Office has established a wellness room that provides a quiet space and snacks for students.
- ▣ Preparation giveaways and cooking classes are also offered to students.
- ▣ Additionally, efforts are being made to encourage student outreach.

Student Affairs Questions

- ▣ Dr. Todd inquired about the common accommodations that students are requesting.
- Dr. Idrizi responded that students are primarily seeking extended time for testing and quiet spaces.
 - She noted an increase in diverse requests beyond the traditional accommodations, highlighting the importance of ongoing learning through conferences attended with Dr. Mulch, who serves as the intake person.
 - For the first time, a student accommodations committee has been established, comprising various curriculum stakeholders, including student representatives, to facilitate meaningful discussions about accommodating a range of disabilities.
- ▣ Dr. Valencia inquired about the efforts being made to address mental health and the programming related to it, noting that many medical education programs are enhancing mental health services and working to reduce stigma. She emphasized the need for support for medical students themselves, in addition to patient care.
- Dr. Idrizi responded that the institution offers more mental health services to students than many other institutions.

- She highlighted that primary behavioral health services are provided free of charge through Family and Community Medicine.
- A lead behavioral health therapist is available on campus once a month and offers walk-in options; additionally, there is a virtual option with approximately 50 providers.
- A pilot program has been initiated specifically for second-year students to access virtual visits.
- Dr. Idrizi emphasized that the institution is proactively addressing the mental health needs of medical students.
- She also mentioned efforts to promote overall wellness, which include addressing food and financial security, health security, and providing support for scholarships and emergency funds.
- The medical education program is focused on enhancing mental health services and reducing stigma.

5. OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Wappel expressed her gratitude to everyone for the opportunity to attend the meeting and extended her appreciation for their generous donations.

Highlights

- ▶ The institution is currently in the midst of the Imagine 2030 campaign and is approximately 60% toward its fundraising goal.
- ▶ Plans are underway for the construction of a new educational building.
- ▶ Alumni giving totals from FY23 through FY25 to date were discussed.
- ▶ The overall SIU goal is set at \$500 million by 2030, while the School of Medicine's goal is \$48 million.
- ▶ School of Medicine fundraising totals to date are as follows:
 - FY25 to date: \$1,131,969
 - FY24: \$4.7 million
 - FY23: \$2.7 million
- ▶ The existing campaign total will roll over into this campaign, with the team having raised \$29,240,984, representing 60.9% of the goal.
- ▶ Out of SIU Carbondale's overall goal of \$500 million, a total of \$356,792,825 has been raised to date, accounting for 70.5% of the goal.

Alumni Giving

- ▶ **Number of solicitable alumni: 3,067**

- Number of alumni donors: 201
 - Percentage of alumni donors: 7%
 - Total number of individual gifts: 249
 - Total amount of gifts: \$329,950.76

📌 **Number of solicitable BOG members: 20**

- Number of BOG donors: 18
- Percentage of BOG donors: 90%
- Total number of individual gifts: 67
- Total amount of gifts: \$43,476.89
- Total individual gifts contributed by BOG members account for 27% of the total.

📌 Total amount of gifts from BOG members represents 13% of the overall gifts received.

📌 A significant gift was received in the spring from Tom Nielsen, MD '81 and Kathy Bohn, MD '83 who recently named Beth's Café in the 801 building in honor of their daughter, Beth, who was a Resident and Fellow at SIU SOM.

Past Events Update:

📌 Denim & Diamonds event took place on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

- New record total: \$500,000
- Sponsorships: \$240,000
- 658 seats sold
- 630 attendees
- Raffle Winners:
 - Best of Live: Rikeesha Phelon
 - Las Vegas Getaway: Sally Brackney
 - Stock the Bar: Jessica Barney

📌 **Events that are coming up on the calendar**

- SOM Day of Giving – Wed, February 26, 2025
- Harbinger Society Event – Thu, May 15, 2025
- On Par Golf Outing – Mon, June 2, 2025
- Illuminate the Night – Sat, June 14, 2025. This is a new event for the Smith Alzheimer's Center.
- Butterfly Release – Sat, June 21, 2025
- Denim & Diamonds Event - The next Denim & Diamonds event is scheduled for October 11, 2025. This event will mark the 25th anniversary of Denim & Diamonds, which is the largest event for the School of Medicine.

📌 Work is underway to construct a new educational building at the intersection of Rutledge and Calhoun, with naming opportunities available.

📌 A walking path around campus is also in development, and there will be naming opportunities associated with this project.

Mrs. Wappel encouraged all members to consider donating or contributing to the scholarship fund to assist with student needs, particularly for those who have not yet had the opportunity to do so.

No further business or questions.

6. OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Ms. Mattson provided highlights of the activities in the Alumni Relations Office since the last meeting in May 2024, noting that the team has been actively engaged on both the alumni and student sides. She announced the successful unveiling of the White Coat to Grad Gown campaign, which was launched on June 22, 2024, coinciding with the reunion event. Ms. Mattson expressed gratitude to the alumni who donated to this campaign, acknowledging their contributions as essential to its success, and indicated that they aim to continue this initiative moving forward.

HOSTS Program

- ▶ Email reminders have been sent to alumni, informing them that they are now included on their respective specialty lists, which currently encompass 20 specialties.
- ▶ A total of 30 new alumni mentors have been secured for students, contributing to a total of nearly 240 alumni across various specialties who are willing to serve as mentors for students seeking connections.
- ▶ Despite the availability of mentorship opportunities, only 3 to 4 students have reached out for connections thus far.

Events Update

- ▶ Ms. Mattson announced that the Napa Valley trip, scheduled for November 1-3, 2024, has sold out. The 1979 Class has 22 members going.

All Alumni Reunion 2024:

- ▶ The Office has learned that alumni prefer to connect solely with their respective classes, with some expressing a lack of interest in returning to Springfield.
- ▶ In response to alumni feedback, the Office is introducing a new initiative focused on fostering connections among classmates.
- ▶ Ten milestone reunion classes are scheduled for next year, with representation from 6 out of the 10 classes.
- ▶ The associated costs for this event will be minimal for the School of Medicine.

Class of 1975

- ▶ The Class of 1975 will be returning to Springfield for a significant induction ceremony into the newly formed "Legion of Legacies".
- ▶ Moving forward, an induction ceremony for a 50-Year Class will be held annually.

Alumni Questions

- ▶ Ms. Mattson was asked about the number of members in the Class of 1975, noting that there are 19 individuals in the class, with 4 members participating on the committee.
- ▶ The marketing team has been tasked with generating press releases to announce the School of Medicine's first 50-Year reunion and to explore potential initiatives for the event.

- ▶ Dr. Pick inquired whether members of the Class of 1975 were reaching out to one another, to which Cassie confirmed that they are and added that the Office of Alumni Relations is also available to assist them in this effort.

- ▶ Ms. Mattson indicated that there will be someone designated to solicit funds for the event.

7. MEDICAL STUDENTS AND HOUSE STAFF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Dr. Austin mentioned that Molly and Madison would not be able to join the meeting today

▶ Class of 2028 Update (LSP) – Jack Carnduff

- M1 students recently completed Unit 2 exams, demonstrating strong performance and successful adjustment to medical school.
- Many students are actively participating in interest groups related to their fields of interest.
- Students have joined various clubs offered by the school, including the book club with Dr. Mulch.
- A few first-year students are volunteering in the cadaver and neuroanatomy labs.
- First-year students are reaching out to local doctors to arrange additional shadowing opportunities.

▶ Class of 2027 Update (LSP) – Jack Carnduff

- Current Rotation: M2 students are well into their clerkships, currently on the third rotation.
- PBL Sessions:
 - Continuing weekly Problem-Based Learning (PBL) sessions to deepen knowledge.
- Volunteering:
 - A few students are volunteering to assist with the care of a Parkinson's patient throughout the week.
- Interest Groups:
 - Students are participating in various interest groups, including:
 - Surgery
 - OB/GYN
 - Rural health
 - Other areas of interest

▶ Class of 2026 Update (LSP) – Jack Carnduff

- M3 students are actively engaged in self-study to prepare for Step 1.
- Students are getting closer to sitting for the exam.
- Involvement in interest groups continues alongside their study efforts.

▶ Class of 2025 Update (LSP) – Jack Carnduff

- Completing Year 4 rotations in Springfield and Carbondale
- Submitted applications through ERAS
- Entering the interview season
- Fields of application include:
 - Family Medicine
 - Neurology
 - OB/GYN
 - Pathology

- Internal Medicine
- Radiology
- General Surgery

During the summer, LSP students participated in a robotic surgery training session using the Da Vinci model. Additionally, students have been actively involved in community events, contributing their time and efforts to serve and give back to the community.

▶ Class of 2027 Update – Tola Adeyefa

- The M2 class is performing well and transitioning from the Hematology, Immunology, and Infectious Disease (HII) unit to the Cardiovascular, Respiratory, and Renal (CRR) unit.
- Most students have comfortably settled into Springfield and are enjoying the new environment.
- Students are actively participating in various extracurricular activities and interest groups, enhancing their overall experience.
- Special thanks to the Alumni Relations Office for providing snacks and donations that have contributed to the class's well-being.
- There is a challenge of what was to be provided for the class.

▶ Class of 2028 Update – Riley Hochstein

- Football League Initiation
 - The class has started a football league to foster community engagement.
- Student Support
 - Overall, students report feeling mentally and emotionally supported and welcomed at the school.
- Social Media Initiative
 - Students are working on launching an Instagram page to promote the medical school and enhance applicant engagement.
- Gratitude to Alumni Relations
 - Thanks were extended to the Alumni Relations Office for providing snacks and White Coats.
- Mid-Semester Reflection
 - With just under two months into medical school, spirits remain high.
 - Mid-unit exams for the cardio, respiratory, and renal systems have been completed.
 - Students now have clarity on the testing format and content, likely leading to reduced stress in upcoming evaluations.
- Stress Management
 - The first-class survey indicated students allocate an average of two hours per day for relaxation, with an average stress level reported at 6/10.
- Class Bonding Activities:

Numerous bonding experiences have been organized

 - Wine tour in Carbondale
 - Fantasy football league

- Paintball outings
- Visit to a pumpkin patch
- Successful Wine Cave Alumni event for networking with alumni.
- Mentorship Programs
Mentorship programs are actively supporting students, who are applying their knowledge in practical contexts.
- Instagram Implementation
First-year student ambassadors are spearheading the creation of an Instagram profile for the medical school to showcase the community and attract future applicants and the marketing department at SIU Med is supportive.
- Overall Experience
The first-year experience has been busy yet fulfilling, with anticipation for the upcoming events and activities.

House Staff Update

Dr. Matt Weber introduced himself and discussed the importance of residency programs, emphasizing the need for strategies that facilitate connections among students after graduation.

- ◀ "Thank a Resident Day" is celebrated on the last Friday of February to express gratitude for the hard work of residents and to explore ways to give back to them, particularly after graduation.
- ◀ The Resident Resource Fund has served as a critical support system when departmental funding falls short; however, the Fund has recently experienced a significant decline in contributions despite increasing funding requests each year.
- ◀ Dr. Matt Weber appealed to all members to contribute to the Fund to support residents, reinforcing the 'Thank a Resident Day' initiative to acknowledge their hard work and dedication.
- ◀ Dr. Matt Weber discussed their marketing strategies for sourcing the Residence Resource Fund, which include reaching out to alumni.
- ◀ He noted that having residents within the alumni cohort can significantly enhance fundraising efforts, and they plan to focus on initiatives driven by residents to support their needs.
- ◀ The team is considering a second apparel sale as a means to raise additional funds.
- ◀ Dr. Todd inquired if there are opportunities for the Board to support the Resident Resource Fund.

Questions/Comments/Contributions

- ◀ Dr. Austin noted that there are three years to determine effective strategies for promoting the Resident Resource Fund, emphasizing that the Board has numerous opportunities to encourage support for the Fund.

- ▶ He clarified that while the Board does not control the Resident Resource Fund, it can actively promote and advocate for it where possible.
- ▶ Dr. Romanelli indicated that the Resident Fund in Orthopedics is designated for specific purposes.
- ▶ Mrs. Wappel stated that their goal is to involve resident alumni as part of the broader alumni network, while continuing to make gradual progress in tracking resident alumni and maintaining a comprehensive database.
- ▶ Dr. Austin informed the group that the Board maintains a robust data tracking system for their graduates.
- ▶ Dr. Jones raised concerns that some departments lack adequate funding to meet their needs.
- ▶ Dr. Todd inquired about the number of residency programs currently soliciting funds from alumni versus those relying on the Resident Resource Fund.
- ▶ Dr. Weber mentioned that he does not have the specific figures readily available but will reach out to gather that information.
- ▶ Mrs. Wappel added that there is new data available from the Residency Program Coordinator, expressing optimism that progress will be made in obtaining updated contact information, as many alumni have had no contact for an extended period, often leaving only their names and specialties on record.
- ▶ Mrs. Wappel pointed out that they did not have access to resident names and addresses until 2017. They tried to get the names and addresses and they were given some but they asked if they were going to solicit them and they said “Yes”, and then they wouldn’t give it to them anymore. But that has changed. She commended Orthopedics for their remarkable solicitation efforts to resident alums.
- ▶ Dr. Hillard-Sembell emphasized that each department should focus on developing a personal touch in their fundraising efforts. She encouraged that contributions should come from within each department’s members. The need to continue making gradual progress in tracking residency alumni and maintaining an accurate database was reiterated. It was suggested to reach out to individual departments to identify which residency programs currently have their own funds and are actively collecting money from alumni.
- ▶ Dr. McDowell acknowledge that there is a gap that needs to be figured out and addressed.
- ▶ Dr. McNeese-Ruffin commented, that why can’t we appeal to the departments for a general or basic contribution to the fund, may be that will encourage them to ask their alumni.
- ▶ Dr. Todd mentioned that from the top to down we need to develop a structure and one policy for all for fundraising for residents that is fair and consistent across all departments.

No further business or questions.

8. DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Dr. Austin reported that this marks the first year of utilizing the new process for nominations, which has resulted in a high caliber of nominees. The Distinguished Alumni Committee convened to review all nominations for the various awards and compiled a list of individuals they deemed most deserving of recognition. The Committee prepared a slate of award recipients for approval.

Nominee- DA Achievement Award

Martin Muntz, MD '01

Nominee- DA Service Award

David Henderson, MD '81

Nominee- Early Career Achievement Award

Lacey Kruse, MD '09

- ▶ An invitation was extended to discuss the nominated members on the list prior to the voting process.

▶ **Nominee- DA Achievement Award**

- Members were invited to discuss the nomination for the DA Achievement Award. After deliberation, the Committee decided to nominate Dr. Martin Muntz over Dr. June McKoy.
- Dr. Pick inquired about the reasons for not selecting Dr. McKoy, noting her impressive accomplishments as detailed in her CV, and highlighting that both nominees have made significant contributions to their committee.
- In response, Dr. Austin explained that the Committee was tasked with identifying a candidate, and Dr. Muntz emerged as the strongest nominee.
- Another Board member echoed Dr. McKoy's qualifications and suggested that her nomination be reconsidered.
- Dr. Austin noted that the consensus could be affected by any member's withdrawal, leading to the decision to temporarily withdraw the DA Achievement Award nomination.
- Members were asked to cast their votes for the nominee for the DA Achievement Award. Dr. Austin later announced Dr. McKoy the recipient of the DA Achievement Award.

▶ **Nominee- DA Service Award**

- Dr. Austin reported that extensive discussions occurred regarding Dr. Henderson and Dr. Webb as nominees for the DA Service Award. Ultimately, the Committee selected Dr. Henderson due to his significant contributions to the field and his dedicated service to the community over an extended period.

- No votes against or comments were submitted by the members and Dr. Henderson was selected as the recipient.

► Nominee- Early Career Achievement Award

- The Committee deliberated on nominees for the Early Career Achievement Award, considering Dr. Lacey Kruse and Dr. Danielle M. Carter, and ultimately selected Dr. Lacey Kruse.
- The Committee noted that Dr. Kruse's diverse contributions to her field were particularly noteworthy.
- Members were invited to express any opposition to the selection of Dr. Lacey Kruse for the Early Career Achievement Award. However, no objections were raised, and their selection was finalized.

9. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – DR. MONTGOMERY-COLLINS

While awaiting the ballot counting, Dr. Montgomery-Collins expressed the Board's gratitude to the Committee members for their dedication and service.

► Dr. Collins announced that the Board will be replacing two (2) outgoing members:

- Stephen Raben, MD
- Mark Schmelzel, MD

Recommended Board Nominees

- Dr. Erick Butt – Self-nomination
- Dr. Regina Kovach – Nominated by Dr. Elizabeth Montgomery-Collins
- The Board acknowledged that all eight candidates are qualified and would each contribute unique strengths to enhance the overall effectiveness of the Board. In the process of replacing the two outgoing members, the Board considered several specific characteristics, including:
 - Geographic representation, distinguishing between Illinois and non-Illinois residents.
 - Consideration of self-nominations.
 - Inclusion of retirees.
 - Gender balance

► Dr. Collins provided an overview of each nominee and their respective achievements.

The following eight (8) nominees were presented:

- Erick Butt, MD '18 – Self-nomination
- Regina A. Kovach, MD '78 – Nominated by Dr. Elizabeth Montgomery-Collins
- Yogitha Potini, MD '15 – Self-nomination
- Manjaap S. Sidhu, MD '19 – Nomination pending
- Jennifer Snyder, MD '09 – Nominated by Dr. Sofya Asfaw, MD '09
- Katherine Hild-Mosely, MD '90 – Self-nomination
- Loren Hughes, MD '83 – Nomination pending

- Denise L. Werner, MD '96 – Nomination pending
- ▶ Dr. Austin noted that there are three (3) openings for the upcoming year, emphasizing the importance of strategically representing the appropriate decade.
- ▶ Dr. Collins expressed enthusiasm for the strong candidacy of all nominees and indicated excitement about their potential contributions for the next year.
- ▶ Ms. Mattson reported that Dr. Erick Butt had inquired about ways to enhance his candidacy for the Board, mentioning his attendance at SIU events to strengthen his qualifications.
- ▶ Dr. Austin announced that Dr. Erick Butt and Dr. Regina Kovach will be appointed to fill the two vacant positions on the Board for the upcoming year. He invited any objections to this decision; no opposition was raised.
- ▶ Dr. Austin also requested any objections to appointing Dr. Katherine Hild-Mosely as an alternative member to fill gaps on the Board if needed, including serving the remainder of any term for Dr. Butt or Dr. Kovach should they be unable to serve. No objections were raised, and he declared the matter resolved.
- ▶ Dr. Austin concluded by thanking all for their participation.

10. STUDENT RESOURCE FUND UPDATE – DR. GILLIHAN

Dr. Gillihan informed the Board that the Student Resource Fund concluded October 2024 with a healthy ending balance of \$77,058.90.

- ▶ The Board entered into a three-year membership agreement with the YMCA, renewing the membership for a total cost of \$21,510, which will be paid through monthly installments.
- ▶ Fundraising efforts during the All-Alumni Reunion resulted in \$11,374 raised, along with an additional pledge of \$17,374.
- ▶ It is projected that the cost of White Coats will increase over the next four years, although the increases will not be substantial initially.
- ▶ Specifically, in 2025, the gown price will rise from \$65 to \$95, with a further increase to \$100.99 anticipated by 2029.
- ▶ Donations received from June 22 onward totaled over \$125, detailed as follows:
 - 41 donations of \$125
 - 8 donations of \$250
 - 3 donations of \$500
 - 2 donations of \$625
 - 2 donations of \$1,000

In total, there were 56 donations of \$125 or greater.

- ▶ The target donation amount can be increased to \$150 to comfortably cover the anticipated elevated costs of the program over the next few years, while also providing a cushion for unforeseen expenses.
- ▶ This represents the strongest financial position for the Student Resource Fund in several years, largely due to the generosity of alumni.
- ▶ Dr. Gillihan commended the alumni for their contributions toward the White Coats initiative.
- ▶ Dr. Todd inquired about the next steps for the program. Mrs. Wappel responded that the White Coat program is not fully funded yet, but it remains a valuable initiative.
- ▶ Ms. Mattson noted that the White Coat program aligns well with new initiatives such as “White Coat Notes” and “Commencement Notes,” where alumni write notes of support and encouragement to students. She emphasized that the initiative is a team effort that has been well received, thanking donors for their support, which has alleviated concerns for students regarding their coats and gowns. She expressed hope for its continuation.
- ▶ Dr. Austin moved to allocate the funds as intended for the fundraising initiatives, and the motion was seconded with no opposition.

11. RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Austin bid farewell to the two outgoing members, Dr. Raben and Dr. Schmelzel, expressing the Board’s appreciation for their service and presence.

- ▶ Dr. Raben expressed his gratitude and shared that he enjoyed his time of service, commending the Board for their excellent work.

Ms. Mattson recognized the efforts of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations team for their hard work.

- ▶ The new Administrative Aide for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, Millicent Emma Fenyi, was introduced and received a warm welcome from all members present.

12. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Mattson reminded members to complete and submit their Confidentiality and/or Purpose & Responsibilities Form if they had not done so previously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Austin moved to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded, leading to adjournment at 8:58 PM.