

**MINUTES  
COMMITTEE ON ANATOMICAL DISSECTION  
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**University of Nevada School of Medicine  
Savitt Medical Building 124  
Jones Conference Room  
Reno, Nevada**

**9:00 A.M., Thursday, July 18, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Ihsan Azzam  
Dr. Emmett Findlay  
Dr. Carl Sievert  
Dr. Jeff Wachs  
Dr. Lawrence Zoller

**Also Present:** Mrs. Joyce King, Administrator for the Committee on Anatomical Dissection (CAD), Ms. Pat Elder, Embalmer & Anatomy Lab Curator, University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSoM), Ms. Amy Oddo, Medical Education and Research Institute of Nevada (MERIN), Mr. Dan Bollard, Gross Anatomy Lab Manager, Touro University Nevada.

Dr. Carl Sievert called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with all members present except Dr. Robert France, Dr. Amy Llewellyn and Ms. Susan Carrasco-O'Brien, UNLV Assistant General Counsel.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS** – Dr. Sievert thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Dr. Emmett Findlay, Dr. Jeff Wachs and Dr. Lawrence Zoller attended the meeting via conference call. After roll call Dr. Sievert confirmed a quorum of members present and proceeded with the meeting.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – Dr. Sievert asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and requested comments or corrections to the minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting. There being no comments, corrections or additions to the minutes, Dr. Sievert requested a motion to approve the minutes as written.

Dr. Zoller moved approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting as written. Dr. Wachs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN-** Dr. Sievert explained that pursuant to Nev. Rev. Stat. (“NRS”) 451.360 (2) (a) the Committee on Anatomical Dissection must annually elect a Chairman from the member appointed by either the President of the

University of Nevada Reno or the member appointed by the President of the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The Chairman shall hold office for a term of one (1) years.

Dr. Sievert reported that he had spoken with Dr. Zoller as to his willingness and availability to serve as Chair of the CAD and he has agreed to serve in this position. Dr. Sievert proceeded to nominate Dr. Zoller as Chairman of the CAD and asked for a motion to approve.

Dr. Wachs moved approval of Dr. Lawrence Zoller as Chairman of the Committee on Anatomical Dissection. Dr. Azzam seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Sievert congratulated Dr. Zoller; Dr. Zoller requested Dr. Sievert continue the meeting at this time.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Dr. Sievert asked if any CAD member or the public in attendance would like to make public comments. Hearing none, Dr. Sievert proceeded to new business.
5. **NEW BUSINESS** - Dr. Sievert asked if there was any new business to discuss. Joyce King suggested that he or other members might like to discuss the Sunset Committee report that was introduced at the January 23, 2013 meeting. Dr. Sievert asked if everybody had a chance to read Chancellor Klaitch's letter and if there were any questions on that or comments about his comments.

Dr. Zoller asked if there was anything Dr. Sievert wanted to add or other comments. Dr. Sievert stated, "Yes, basically issues that all of us have been aware of for years now, that there is some need for this committee and the legislature does not want to put any effort into supporting us. They do not want to re-direct the CAD's charge and I think it is something that needs to be done and I hope to retire before there is a problem."

"We have a number of businesses in the state that use cadaveric material for business and education and there is very little regulation over that. Those are my comments."

Dr. Zoller commented that this is certainly happening in Las Vegas and there is a history of hotels that we hear about after the fact. Indeed, there is no regulation and that could be problematic.

Dr. Wachs commented that those situations are not the CAD's problem as the CAD does not have charge over that. He did wonder if this letter or any other interactions we have in writing protect us from that.

Dr. Sievert agreed that was a good point and that the CAD does not have any charge over that type of use. He has made it very clear to the Sunset Committee and the NSHE Chancellor that we do not have any jurisdiction, therefore we are not responsible. However, that being said if there is a problem someone would probably say, "Don't we have a committee on anatomical dissection and why aren't they involved." We may never be held responsible but we would certainly be called into the limelight.

Dr. Azzam agreed. He suggested a future project in which we create a document to recommend who can do that type of dissection; where they can do it; what are the functions which would be fulfilled. Things can still happen or somebody could get hurt, but the CAD would be safe because we were proactive in what we think is right.

Dr. Zoller referred back to a situation a couple of years ago when he was Chairman of the CAD and he was contacted by a Las Vegas TV station reporter was attempting to link the CAD to cadaveric use. He had to deal with the UNLV legal department to respond to the reporter. It did take a while to convince the reporter that this was not within our purview.

Dr. Wach's commented that at earlier meetings the CAD had legal counsel present and asked why not recently. Joyce King replied that Susan Carasco O'Brien, UNLV legal counsel, was not available due to a leave until early August and there was not a substitute recommended for this meeting. The NRS does not state that legal counsel must attend the CAD meetings but having counsel present is appreciated and helpful for clarification of certain issues. It should be noted that if the CAD does have issues we can present it to legal in writing for their opinion and recommendation.

Dr. Wach's likes to be proactive when it comes to possible liability and recommended that the CAD ask Ms. O'Brien to create a document outlining the responsibilities of the CAD and the matters that the CAD does not have jurisdiction over that we can present to the legislature for adoption, if needed.

Joyce King stated that she would contact Ms. O'Brien to request this document and have it ready for the next CAD meeting. Dr. Wach's commented that would be up to the committee but it seems like a gray zone and the CAD is floating in that we know what we can and cannot do but we can be blamed for what we cannot do." He recommends it needs to be clearer from a legal standpoint just to protect the CAD.

Dr. Azzam concurs that this is a very important point because whenever somebody sends letters to the State requesting that they would like to open an out-patient surgery center and they would like to have cadavers because they intend to do multiple types of surgeries, these letter usually end up on his desk because he is a member of the CAD -- asking me to handle the request. This type of request is not the CAD's responsibility but the perception of the public and even at the health department is that these requests fall within the CAD's responsibility and he feels that something needs to be done about it.

Dr. Zoller commented that the charge of the committee is stated clearly in the state documents (NRS). One of the reasons that the CAD has not done more is that it clearly states that we only have authority over unclaimed cadavers, so that is clearly stated so he is at a loss as to how having an attorney restate that would help.

Dr. Findlay commented that Dr. Zoller is correct in that the CAD has done all they can do. We are within the confines of our current abilities, we have identified that there is a problem and lack of oversight and we have brought it to the attention of the governing bodies. They have chosen not to act on it therefore I don't think we can be held responsible.

Dr. Azzam stated that this is great news as this is what we are supposed to do but the perception is that the CAD can support or deny any actions related to cadavers. He further comments that about two years ago when an out-patient center in Las Vegas area stated: they were very serious in that it was their understanding that is what you (CAD) do; he replied, “ no this is not what we do.” Dr. Azzam stated that he believes the problem is that we need to clarify this matter because they (the public) perceives that we can either support or deny any actions related to anything related to cadavers.

Dr. Findlay stated he understands that and he agreed with Dr. Azzam that as an issue perception is very different from reality in some cases. He thinks as a committee we need to decide which direction we want to go in terms as to whether we want to make an effort to identify to the public and whoever else that we are not responsible for any of that activity. Or to push it to broaden our scope with the legislature which I believe we have attempted and they decided it is something they do not want to pursue at this time.

Dr. Wachs agreed and suggested the best approach right now is to forward this information on to the committee and as a committee we bring it to our legal advisor. He recommended the CAD draft a letter stating our responsibilities; handle it on a case by case basis.

Dr. Sievert concurred that we have a charge by the state legislative regulations (NRS) that state what the CAD can do and what we are limited to. He thinks as a committee we should take a look at the code and make sure that the wording does exonerate us; then review at a future meeting. He also thinks it would be a good idea to get legal representation as to what we are not responsible for.

Dr. Wachs asked Joyce King to forward the minutes of this discussion to Ms. O’Brien and have her work on this request. Mrs. King stated that Ms. O’Brien is due back in the office August 5, 2013 and agreed to call her about this request and forward a summary draft of the minutes after Dr. Zoller has approved them for her legal opinion.

Dr. Sievert thanked all members for their thoughtful comments. He then asked if there was any other new business to be discussed. Being none he called for the meeting to be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Joyce A. King, Administrator

Committee on Anatomical Dissection