

Minutes are intended to note; (a) the date, time and place of the meeting; (b) those members of the public body who were present and those who were absent; and (c) the substance of all matters proposed, discussed and/or action was taken on. Minutes are not intended to be a verbatim report of a meeting. An audiotape recording of the meeting is available for inspection by any member of the public interested in a verbatim report of the meeting. These minutes are not final until approved by the Board of Regents at the November-December 2017 meeting.

**BOARD OF REGENTS and its
HEALTH SCIENCES SYSTEM COMMITTEE
NEVADA SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

GBC Theatre
Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway, Elko
Friday, September 8, 2017

Members Present: Dr. Mark W. Doubrava, Chair
 Mrs. Cathy McAdoo, Vice Chair
 Mr. Trevor Hayes
 Mr. John T. Moran

Members Absent: Mr. Rick Trachok

Other Regents Present: Mr. Kevin J. Page, Chairman
 Dr. Jason Geddes, Vice Chairman

Others Present: Ms. Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs
 Mr. Dean J. Gould, Chief of Staff & Special Counsel to the Board
 Ms. Allison Combs, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic &
 Student Affairs and Director, Public Policy
 Ms. Renee Davis, Director, Student Affairs
 Dr. Len Jessup, President, UNLV
 Dr. Marc A. Johnson, President, UNR

Faculty Senate Chairs in attendance were Dr. Zachary Woydziak, NSC; Ms. Marcie Jackson, System Administration; Ms. Shannon Sumpter, UNLV; and Dr. Thomas Harrison, UNR.

For others present, please see the attendance roster on file in the Board Office.

Chair Mark W. Doubrava called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with all members present except for Regent Hayes and Regent Trachok.

1. Information Only-Public Comment – None.
2. Approved-Minutes – The Committee recommended approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2017, meeting (*Ref. HSS-2 on file in the Board office*).

Regent Moran moved approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2017, meeting. Vice Chair McAdoo seconded. Motion carried. Regent Hayes and Regent Trachok were absent.

3. Information Only-Chair's Report – Chair Mark W. Doubrava provided general remarks and updated the Committee members regarding health sciences planning and development efforts including activities and actions of the Board of Regents, the Health Sciences System administration and other Nevada System of Higher Education leaders since the last meeting of the Committee.

Chair Doubrava recognized the “white coat” ceremonies recently conducted by the NSHE Schools of Medicine, and noted that the Committee’s purview also includes other health sciences throughout the NSHE, including dental and nursing.

Vice Chair McAdoo expressed her honor in serving on the Health Sciences System Committee and provided an overview of her healthcare background.

Regent Hayes entered the meeting.

4. Information Only-Coordinated Public Medical Education Expansion Efforts and Related Transition Planning – Dr. Thomas L. Schwenk, Dean of the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine (UNR Med), and Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger, Acting Dean of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Medicine (UNLV SOM), and Dean of the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences, provided an update on efforts to manage and coordinate expansion of public medical education in Nevada and related transition planning, including an overview of the status of practice plan operations and development, and projected timeframes for reaching key transition milestones.
(Refs. HSS-4a, HSS-4b and HSS-4c on file in the Board office)

Dr. Thomas Schwenk, Dean, UNR Med, began with providing three major highlights related to UNR Med: (i) In a recent *USA Today* survey, UNR Med was ranked as the 13th most affordable medical school in the country due to a combination of low student debt, relatively low tuition and high levels of financial aid; (ii) NIH (National Institutes of Health) ranked UNR Med’s Department of Physiology and Cell Biology number four in the country for FY16, which is the most recent fiscal year in which data is available; and (iii) UNR Med’s newly formed Graduate Medical Education Office partnered with Renown Health to submit an application for a national pilot program for developing new approaches to teaching residents about patient safety and quality of care. UNR Med was one of eight medical schools in the country selected to participate in the program. Additional highlights provided by Dean Schwenk included multiple issues involving the new leadership structure with personnel now located primarily in northern Nevada; the expansion of graduate medical education, specifically with geriatrics, with strong support from Renown Health; improved Practice Plans; ongoing faculty recruitment; LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) accreditation; and the upcoming State of the School address.

Chair Doubrava requested more detail regarding the clerkships for OBGYN and Surgery. Dean Schwenk answered that they started the pilot programs for OBGYN and Surgery about twenty months ago. Regarding these programs, UNR Med is currently working on increasing the student capacity and teaching

4. Information Only-Coordinated Public Medical Education Expansion Efforts and Related Transition Planning – (continued)

programs. Specifically related to Surgery, partnerships have flourished with both Renown Health and the VA (Veterans Affairs). They are also working on designing a new set of programs which will support and reward community physicians who volunteer their time to train UNR Med students.

Chair Doubrava inquired if UNR Med has recently acquired any new partnerships. Dean Schwenk highlighted the partnership with the VA and said the relationship has been very positive and there are many new opportunities developing which will be disclosed at a future meeting. He also acknowledged community partnerships in northern Nevada including Carson Tahoe Health, Northern Nevada Medical Center, St. Mary's Regional Medical Center and various partnerships in Elko.

Chair Doubrava shared that he was impressed that 30 percent of the physicians practicing in Washoe County are UNR Med graduates. Dean Schwenk concurred and added that he believes the number of practicing UNR Med graduates in Las Vegas is also significant. In response to a follow-up question from Chair Doubrava, Dean Schwenk said they have been impressed with the community turnout and the desire to be more involved with UNR Med.

Regent Page asked about the attributions to the financial change in the Practice Plan. Dean Schwenk answered there are a few attributions to the change which include the administrative and operational experience of Mr. Jeremy Alltop, Senior Associate Dean, Administration and Finance, UNR Med, changes made to the management fees and billing assisted with cutting a large amount of expenses and so forth. He stated the financial change is the result of a cumulative impact of many different interventions.

Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger, Acting Dean, UNLV SOM and Dean, UNLV School of Community Health Sciences, presented a report on UNLV SOM updates including general leadership initiatives which involved \$50 million in new philanthropy funds and the LCME visit in February 2017; on-going transition work, including the completion of contracts with major insurance payors and physician services agreements; and the acceptance of 60 students for the Class of 2021.

In response to an inquiry from Regent Hayes, Acting Dean Gerstenberger confirmed that UNLV SOM is a Medicaid provider as well.

Regent Page asked if the transition is complete. Acting Dean Gerstenberger said yes, except for some minor issues which still need to be resolved. Regent Page requested a final update be provided soon regarding the IT transition.

Chair Doubrava asked about the transition of the phone system and if the phone numbers were kept the same. Acting Dean Gerstenberger confirmed the phone

4. Information Only-Coordinated Public Medical Education Expansion Efforts and Related Transition Planning – *(continued)*

numbers remained the same and aside from the system crashing a few days after transition, everything is fully operational and has been working successfully.

5. Information Only-Nevada Health Service Corps – Gerald J. Ackerman, Assistant Dean, Rural Programs, UNR Med, and Director, Nevada Office of Rural Health, provided an overview of the Nevada Health Service Corps, including the state loan repayment program administered by the Office of Rural Health and the federal program administered by the Health Resources Service Administration. The presentation included state and federal program requirements, benefits, eligible disciplines and funding sources.
(Refs. HSS-5a and HSS-5b on file in the Board office)

Dean Schwenk introduced Mr. Gerald Ackerman, Assistant Dean, Rural Programs, UNR Med, and Director, Nevada Office of Rural Health, and provided a brief description of his role within UNR Med. Assistant Dean Ackerman presented a report on student loan repayment programs. He noted that one of the biggest issues in rural Nevada and across the state is access to primary care; however, the primary care field is not typically affordable for medical school graduates, especially for those with student debt. Medical or dental students in the final year of school can apply to the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Students to Service Loan Repayment Program which provides up to \$120,000 for students in return for a 3-year commitment to provide primary health care fulltime at a federally approved NHSC site designated as an area of greatest need. The NHSC loan repayment program offers \$50,000 in tax-free loan repayment funding in return for a 2-year commitment. Both programs are very competitive and subject to availability of limited funds.

Assistant Dean Ackerman also discussed other available loan repayment programs, including those specifically for nurses, the military, American Indians and Alaska Natives. In addition, a growing number of employers are starting to offer student loan repayment benefits.

Regent Hayes asked if there is a geographic restriction in areas that are defined as “medically underserved” in Nevada and if so, which areas in Nevada would qualify. Assistant Dean Ackerman used Las Vegas as an example and said there are many pockets in Las Vegas that are classified as HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Areas). Any community health center is automatically designated as a HPSA site regardless of location, and this also applies to any federal health care facility such as prisons and so forth.

In response to a question from Chair Doubrava, Assistant Dean Ackerman confirmed that the state of Nevada contributes \$200,000 of funding each year to the NHSC program.

Regent Hayes asked why \$500,000 was the limit for the NHSC program. Assistant Dean Ackerman answered if there was a donor to match state funds,

5. Information Only-Nevada Health Services Corps – (continued)

they would be able to apply for more money. He added there will be an opportunity in 2018 to apply for more funding.

Vice Chair McAdoo asked if there are any practices and/or employers in Nevada offering stipends for the NSHE medical school residents. Assistant Dean Ackerman confirmed there are and that stipends seem to be a new recruitment tool for employers.

6. Information Only-Handbook and Code Revisions, Joint Faculty Appointments – Dr. Thomas L. Schwenk, Dean of the UNR Med, and Dr. Shawn Gerstenberger, Acting Dean of the UNLV SOM, and Dean of the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences, presented for information a revision to NSHE Code to authorize joint faculty appointments for the NSHE Schools of Medicine. Specifically, the Code revision provides that a joint appointment may be assigned to a clinician who is employed by an external institution, including hospitals, that has an affiliation agreement with an NSHE institution (*Title 2, Chapter 5, new Section 5.4.11*). The Code revision was presented for information only and will be presented for action at a subsequent meeting of the Committee. A revision to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 12*) to include the joint faculty appointment classification within the list of professional staff eligible for grant-in-aid will be brought forward for approval with the Code revision (*Ref. HSS-6 on file in the Board office*).

Dean Schwenk introduced the item and explained the request is to use a new category in Workday called “joint appointment” which will apply to physicians who have substantial teaching responsibilities and are employed by a major affiliate. This is not designed to change the status or category for individual community volunteer physicians. This is a joint request from both medical schools to give those volunteers that are applicable a more substantial label. “Adjunct” is the current modifier used for volunteer physicians and it does not adequately capture the amount of teaching these types of volunteers do.

In response to a question from Chair Doubrava, Dean Schwenk answered there is a belief that there are physicians from both private and public entities who make significant contributions. The medical schools would like to include everyone into the “joint appointment” status; however, they understand that is a big leap from how it is currently structured. A step in the right direction would be to use the “joint appointment” title for all physicians employed by the medical schools’ major partners.

Regent Page asked if grant-in-aid benefits are available to dependents of adjunct faculty members, or to the dependents of newly-proposed joint faculty members. Dean Schwenk confirmed that it was not and explained the actual use of grant-in-aid by adjunct faculty members themselves is miniscule, perhaps one person in the past three years. The reason for this is that they themselves are far along in their careers and have little use for such benefits. It is more of a symbolic benefit.

7. Information Only-New Business – Chair Doubrava requested a discussion on admission requirements for the medical schools at the December 2017 meeting.
8. Information Only-Public Comment – None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Prepared by: Winter M.N. Lipson
Special Assistant and Coordinator to the Board of Regents

Submitted for approval by: Dean J. Gould
Chief of Staff and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents