

**Minutes of the Board of Regents  
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**

**Meeting No. 211  
August 3, 2020**

The Board of Regents (Board), Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), met virtually on August 3, 2020, using the Zoom online platform due to the COVID-19 Pandemic preventing an onsite meeting. Online access was provided to the Regents, enabling a two-way forum for discussion among the Board members. The meeting was simultaneously broadcasted via a YouTube link made available to the public for real-time observation. A link to the complete open session meeting video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6z6bmKe4mg8>.

The meeting date and agenda items were published in the *Federal Register* and each Regent was duly notified prior to the meeting. The Board Executive Secretary, Jeffrey Longacre, M.D., and the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Ms. Annette Askins-Roberts, were both present during the entire meeting. The meeting was called to order by the DFO at 8:07 a.m.

Members and advisors listed below were in attendance:

**Board Members**

Honorable Jonathan Woodson, M.D., Chair  
Ronald R. Blanck, D.O., Member  
Honorable Sheila P. Burke, M.P.A., Member  
GEN Richard Cody, Member  
Michael M.E. Johns, M.D., Member  
Kenneth P. Moritsugu, M.D., M.P.H., Member  
Leo Rouse, D.D.S., Member  
HON Thomas McCaffery, ASD(HA) (Secretary of Defense designee)  
Richard W. Thomas, M.D., D.D.S., President, USU  
MG Telita Crosland, MC, USA, Representing the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army  
RADM Bruce Gillingham, MC, USN, Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy  
Maj Gen Sean Murphy, USAF, MC, Representing the Surgeon General of the U.S. Air Force  
CAPT Joel Dulaigh, USPHS, Representing the Surgeon General of the United States

**Advisors to the Board**

RDML James Hancock, MC, USN, Medical Officer of the Marine Corps  
Thomas Travis, M.D., M.P.H., Senior Vice President, Campus South, USU  
William Roberts, M.D., M.B.A., Senior Vice President, Campus West, USU  
Arthur L. Kellermann, M.D., M.P.H., Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM), USU  
Diane Seibert, Ph.D., ARNP, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), USU  
Thomas R. Schneid, D.M.D., M.S., Executive Dean, Postgraduate Dental College (PDC), USU  
Lula Pelayo, Ph.D., R.N., Acting Dean, College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS), USU  
COL Mohammed Naeem, Director, Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI)  
Mark Peterson, J.D., Legal Advisor to the Board, USU

## **OPENING COMMENTS**

The meeting was called to order by the DFO and initial comments were made by the Board Chair, Dr. Woodson. He extended his appreciation to Ms. Sarah Marshall who volunteered to serve as the Acting DFO during the position vacancy, as well as a welcome to Ms. Askins-Roberts who has accepted the permanent position to fill the vacancy of the Board DFO.

## **MATTERS OF GENERAL CONSENT**

Chair Woodson presented matters of general consent:

- Declaration of Board Actions since the May meeting
  - USU Exceptional Service Award for Brig Gen (Ret) Charles Potter, Assistant Vice President for University Programs, Southern Region
  - USU Exceptional Service Award for Col Jay Graver, Dean, Air Force Postgraduate Dental School
  - USU University Medal to Dr. Arthur Kellermann, Dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine

## **BOARD ACTIONS**

### **May Board minutes**

Chair Woodson presented the updated May Board minutes.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the minutes as drafted.

### **Degree Conferral – SOM Graduate Education**

Dean Kellermann presented for endorsement (Tab 11) two degrees of Master of Science in Public Health and two Doctor of Philosophy candidates.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Dean Kellermann and recommended that the USU President confer the degrees as stated upon these candidates.

### **Degree Conferral – PDC**

Dean Schneid presented for Board endorsement one candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Oral Biology based on successful completion of degree requirements as of June 30, 2020 (Tab 12).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the recommendation as presented by Dean Schneid and recommended that the USU President confer the degree as stated upon the candidates.

### **Degree Conferral – CAHS**

Dean Pelayo presented a total of 63 candidates for Board endorsement upon completion of associate (35) and bachelor degree (28) requirements, as noted in Tab 13.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice vote: Concurred with the recommendations of degree conferral upon completion of degree requirements, as presented by Dean Pelayo for conferral by the USU President.

### **Faculty Appointments and Promotions – SOM**

Dean Kellermann presented the recommendations made by the SOM Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure at the 15 June 2020 meeting or appropriate search committees (Tab 14). Notably, three of the individuals are being recommended for professor emeritus status, Drs. Ildy Katona, Cindy Wilson, and William Haffner.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice voted: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Dean Kellermann and recommended that the USU President implement the actions for faculty appointment or promotion.

### **Faculty Appointments and Promotions – GSN**

Associate Dean Seibert presented two recommendations made by the GSN Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure (Tab 15).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice voted: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Associate Dean Seibert and recommended that the USU President implement the actions for faculty appointment or promotion.

### **Faculty Appointments and Promotions – PDC**

Dean Schneid presented one recommendation made by the PDC Committee on Appointments and Promotion at the meeting on 22 June 2020 (Tab 16).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice voted: Concurred with the recommendation as presented by Dean Schneid and recommended that the USU President implement the action for faculty appointment or promotion.

### **USU PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Thomas' report to the Board is found at Tab 17. Dr. Thomas noted that the CAHS Dean and Vice President for Research searches have concluded and are pending announcements. The search committee for the Dean School of Medicine vacancy is being stood up and Dr. Louis Pangaro will serve as interim SOM dean. No actions were requested of the Board.

Regent Cody asked if HA leadership has considered doing a quadrennial review of the MHS. HON McCaffery noted that the MHS is doing a COVID AAR, as well as the DoD conducting a "lessons learned." Regent Cody noted the difficulty in rapidly providing clinicians or ramping up research and development once cuts have been made.

Regent Burke underscored the need to prepare for the next crisis and emphasized the necessary time to ramp up the resources to address future threats.

#### **ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS REPORT**

HON McCaffery presented his report to the Board (Tab 18). No comments were raised by the Regents.

#### **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE REPORT**

Dean Kellermann presented his summary Board report highlights (Tab 19). He noted the tragic accidental death of a USU student, ENS John Grider. The SOM leaders in distributed learning described current initiatives for the Board. No actions were requested of the Board.

#### **SCHOOL OF NURSING REPORT**

Associate Dean Seibert provided a summary of Board report highlights (Tab 20). No actions were requested from the Board.

#### **POSTGRADUATE DENTAL COLLEGE REPORT**

Dean Schneid provided a highlight summary of his Board report (Tab 21). No actions were requested from the Board.

#### **COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH REPORT**

Dean Pelayo provided a highlight summary of her Board report (Tab 22). Dean Pelayo recommended to the Board proposals for two new academic programs, the Pharmacy Technician Program and the Hospital Corpsman Basic Program.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board

Vote by voice voted: Concurred with the recommendations as presented by Dean Pelayo and recommended that the USU President implement the proposals.

#### **ARMED FORCES RADIOBIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE REPORT**

COL Naeem provided his inaugural highlight summary of his Board report (Tab 23) detailing his vision for AFRRI. No actions were requested of the Board. Maj Gen Murphy noted that AFFRI may benefit from connecting with the 711<sup>th</sup> Air Force Research Lab in order to attract young scientists and officers.

#### **UNIVERSITY BRIGADE COMMANDER REPORT**

COL Donahue provided his inaugural highlight summary of his Board report (Tab 24). No actions were requested of the Board. Chair Woodson asked the Brigade Commander what the student morale is currently regarding their future careers. COL Donahue noted one of the biggest

stressors for them is not being on campus. Regent Moritsugu asked what the University is doing proactively, such as offering mental health intervention to the students. The Brigade has sent out multiple email communications offering key messages and contacts for the students who desire assistance.

#### **UNIVERSITY SOUTHERN REGION REPORT**

Dr. Travis provided the highlight summary of his Board report (Tab 25). No actions were requested by Dr. Travis of the Board.

#### **UNIVERSITY WESTERN REGION REPORT**

Dr. Roberts provided the highlight summary of his Board report (Tab 26). No actions were requested by Dr. Roberts of the Board.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Mr. Tinling provided a highlight summary of his Board report (Tab 27). No actions were requested by Mr. Tinling of the Board.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH REPORT**

Dr. Randolph provided a highlight summary of her Board report (Tab 28). No actions were requested by Dr. Randolph of the Board. Mr. Tinling elaborated on the cuts imposed as well as additional potential cuts. Chair Woodson noted that in the context of COVID, the importance of these research endeavors has become apparent and warrants additional clarity of message in emphasizing the importance of the health of the Force and the current risk posed by drastic cuts.

#### **UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

LTC Myatt, the new Senate President, provided a highlight summary of the Board report (Tab 29). No actions were requested of the Board. Chair Woodson asked if there were any faculty concerns about returning to work under the current COVID circumstances. LTC Myatt noted that several concerns have been raised and they have been raised to leadership. In addition, the Senate has brought in subject matter experts to discuss concerns and maximize communication.

Regent Cody asked HON McCaffery what the Board can do to assist in speaking with CAPE on the cuts discussed. Regent Cody noted the potential “perfect storm” that is approaching with the budget cuts. He asked HON McCaffery what can be done to stave off the cuts CAPE is recommending. HON McCaffery reinforced the importance of the Board working with Dr. Thomas in identifying impacts and implications of the proposed reductions. HON McCaffery does not think that the DoD topline budget will improve, in fact, may get worse.

**HENRY M. JACKSON FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MILITARY  
MEDICINE REPORT**

Dr. Carvalho, HJF CEO, provided a highlight summary of the Board report (Tab 30).

**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

Mr. Peterson provided a highlight summary of the Board report (Tab 31). He asked that each Regent who is an annual OGE Form 450 filer at USU read, sign and return the enclosed handout. He also reminded Regents on the conflict of interest statute, within the criminal code.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Chair Woodson again shared his appreciation to the departing School of Medicine Dean Kellermann.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Woodson and the Board DFO adjourned the open portion of the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

SUBMITTED:



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Jeffrey L. Longacre, M.D.  
Executive Secretary, Board of Regents

APPROVED:



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Jonathan Woodson, M.D.  
Chair, Board of Regents

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